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# Part of the History of the Life of Ira Allen Esquire,

## Written by himself from Memory, in the Pelagie Prison, Paris.

This Part was began March 25th. 1799. The former Part was commenced in Paris, June, 1796, and is now in Possession of Doctr Isaac Mosley, of Summers Town, Skinners Street, No. 29 London.

In June, 1796, in Paris, I began the History of my Life; giving an account of my Parents, the Death of my Father on the 19th of April, 1756, in the third year of my age; with an account of my Brothers and Sisters, which memorandum is in the care of Doctr Isaac Mosley of London.

In September, 1769, I assisted my brother Heman and Levi to purchase 350 store hogs; and on the 14th of October, set out to drive them from Salisbury, in Connecticut to Hatfield Equivilent, to fatten on Beech nuts. On the morning of the nineteenth of October, I set out to drive them through the wilderness from Williamsburg, where there was no road, nor even a line of marked trees. We began to drive as soon as day light appeared. A cold rain soon commenced, and by sun rise, every bush or limb of a tree was covered with ice, and a tremendous rain with hail ensued, so that every man was wet to his skin; except Heman Allen, who from his weakly constitution kept on horse-back, well covered with clothes. The severity of the storm benumbed both man and beast to that degree that we made slow progress in our march. For convenience, we divided our drove into three divisions. Abner Owen assisted me with the first. It being necessary for us to make a small stop for the rest, Owen was so benumbed and fatigued that he sat down to rest and instantly went to sleep,

when I was obliged to give him several strokes with a stick to provoke him to exertion. Soon after this, we came to a bridle road, marked trees, &c., from East Hoosac to said Hatfield Equivilent. Five miles from Mr. Macintire's, we left our drove, and made the best of our way for his house. When we had gained about half the distance Edward Akins gave out and was put upon the horse behind my brother. A little before dark we found the house of Mr. Macintire, although we had little more than a line of marked trees to follow, from which another line branched off. After a great part of the company had passed the line leading to the house, the direct line was discovered. After arriving there Mr. Akins, who had, for some time, been held on the horse, was carried into the house, and some warm milk and supper was given him. After three times administered, he had sense and strength enough to make signs for more, and was restored to health.

This shows the effects of cold and fatigue on the human frame, without being in the least frozen. In case any person in such circumstances has not firmness of mind enough to keep in exercise to assist decaying nature, if they sit down to rest, they will fall into sleep from which, without assistance, they never will awaken. Had the aforesaid company passed the line of marked trees to Mr. McIntires, and been necessitated to have passed the night in the wilderness, they were so wet and cold, that they could not have made any fire, and must of course have perished. Those who bore the cold and fatigue best were much benumbed, especially after fording a small brook, which, at common times, had not one foot of water, but now was swollen to four feet high, and hail and snow was over shoes. This was one of the severest storms ever known in that climate.

I made my home at McIntires and took charge of said hogs. It is to be remembered that hogs are

strange animals. If not attended to they will, in a few days, get as wild as the beasts of the field. But by being seen once in a few days, and salted like cattle, they may be kept tame, and will grow or fatten as fast on beech nuts, as on any food that can be given them.

About the first of January, near 150 of said hogs, that were the best, were driven to Albany, and were good pork and sold at a high price. The remainder were kept in the woods till a deep snow on the 16th of February. They were then driven to Sunderland on Connecticut river, and kept on corn till near the first of April, when 200 more hogs were brought on, and all driven to the woods and kept on beechnuts till about the first of June; and then driven to Albany, and answered for good pork at a great profit. I attended to the business through the whole.

Some Particulars that happened in the course of said Business with the Hogs, viz.

Mr. and Mrs. McIntire were from Scotland, and had two daughters about 24 years of age. The old lady and daughters used to amuse me by telling many frightful stories respecting ghosts, apparitions &c, appearing to people in Scotland; amongst which were many stories respecting an old woman appearing without a head. One evening I challenged the old woman without a head, and all the ghosts &c, to meet me at any time and place they chose. This exceedingly alarmed my honest landlady and daughters, and they all seemed exceedingly anxious for my safety, for being so presumptious as to make such a challenge; not doubting but that I should meet with difficulty the first time I was belated in the woods. In the evening the next day, I found that a part of the hogs had been strayed away and become wild. With all the art I had, I could not get them so gentle as to come to

them till near dark, at which time I was at least three miles in the wilderness. There was then a snow on the ground about four inches deep. I made the best of my way to gain a foot path from Mr. McIntires to a beaver meadow. In the way I passed thickets of hemlocks &c, under which it was dark. I cut a staff about three feet long to defend my eyes &c, from limbs that might come in my face. In this way I found the foot path, in which several horse loads of hay had been carried, from the meadow to the house, which had mixed leaves, snow, &c, so that I could discover the foot path for 20 rods before me. (At this time, for the first time that night, I thought of the old woman without any head, at which I had a hearty laugh to think which would turn out if we met in that narrow path. I thought no more of the matter till I had reached about one mile, when, to my no small surprise, at about eight rods distance, I discovered the perfect appearance of a woman in the path, without any head. Her shoulders, waist, arms akimbo, her hands on her hips, womans clothes and feet below were in perfect shape before me, which I viewed with astonishment. I reasoned to myself is this appearance fictitious or real, If the God of nature authorizes apparitions, there is no flying from them. What injury can they possibly do me. I have promised faithfully not to flinch at any such appearance. I will see it out. On this determination, I kicked the snow away, that I might know where I made the discovery; and then advanced with my cane in my hand for a blow as soon as I arrived near enough. With trembling approaches, I came within about thirty yards, before I discovered the cause of such an appearance. The facts were that a tree had been broken by the winds, leaving a stump, which the woodcocks had pecked the bark off in that shape so long ago that the wood had become whitish, and the bark of the other part had just fallen off. The darkness

of the night prevented me from seeing the dark contour, while the reflection of the snow showed the other part of the stump; forming the size and figure of a woman ~~without~~ a head. Had it been a little lighter, the whole stump would have been seen; or a little darker, and no part could have been seen. To satisfy myself, I went back to where I kicked away the snow, and the old woman again appeared in perfect shape. I occasionally passed that place frequently after, but not at a time, when such an appearance could be discovered. Had I been frightened and run away, I might, like others, have believed in such appearances. Parents ought never to frighten children, or suffer it to be done by others, by such stories. It causes a certain intimidation when in the dark, that is hard to get the better of when come to years of discretion.

The snow storm that commenced on the 16th of February continued incessantly for three days, till the snow was three feet and a half on the level. The third day of which I was in the woods and found that the hogs could move but little, and it was hard for me to walk in snow mid thigh deep. That evening, I procured a pair of snow shoes, and for the first time I ever had snow shoes on my feet. I set out in the gray of the morning for Mr. Mitchels the first house in Ashfield, eight miles, by a line of marked trees, where I soon arrived and took breakfast. I proceeded to Conway where I hired a horse and rode to Deerfield, and applied to purchase corn. I was offered 100 bushels at fourteen pence per bushel, but could engage no more at that price. I discovered a combination to raise the price of corn. I therefore went to Muddy Brook, and not being successful there, I proceeded to Sunderland, where I contracted for 300 bushels an old house and barn for the hogs at deacon . I returned to Ashfield, and hired Mr. Mitchel &c, to go with cattle, horses &c,

to break a road to the hogs and got them all safe to Sun-35
derland, where I found the price of corn was raised. But
getting information of some rich farmers about five miles
out of town, I contracted with them for sufficient for
my use to be delivered at deacon at the
same price. On my return to town I called at a pub-
lic house, kept by Capt Warner, where I had been
informed that people who did not appear in good
habits were much imposed on. Being in my woods
dress, a beardless youth, for amusement, undertook
to try the Land Lady's manner of treating poor
people, by first calling for a small glass of rum, with
as much diffidence as possible. Putting my hat under
my arm, I stood partly in the corner, as some gentle-
men sat before the fire. A very little New England
rum was handed to me. I then asked in a bashful tone
for some dinner. I observed the old lady looked sharp
at me, and proceeded to prepare some dinner, which
consisted of some old fragments, mostly bones, dry crusts
of bread &c. The whole appeared to have been, for one
week, often warmed and brought to the table, with
a pint of cider. I sat down at the table so that the
people in the room could see my movements.
I made myself some diversion in tumbling over
the old bones &c. I then took two half joes out
of my pocket, laying them on the table without
attempting to eat a Mouthful, asked for my bill
observing that I expected it would be high, as I was
sure that the cooks had been at least one week pre-
paring my dinner, and that I would pay the bill
and go into town and kill one of my hogs for dinner.
At this the landlady was much alarmed and made
many excuses and soon furnished a good dinner.
This was amusing to the company, as they were inhabitants
of the town &c, with whom I spent an agreeable after-
noon. At the next election for Innkeeper, that house
was put down.

After driving the last of said hogs to Albany, a few being scattered in the woods, I returned back to M'Intires and my horse ran away from me. I concluded that he would try to find the way to his old home. I therefore took my bridle in my hand and set out on foot to get a head of him and advertise him. I had sundry advertisements written and small nails to put them up. On Sunday near night I came to Mr. Todds in East Hoosac, who kept a public house, and was a preacher. After making inquiry for my horse I nailed up an advertisement, and was about leaving the house, when I was ordered not to travel on the Sabbath day, & learnt that Mr. Todd was also a Justice of the Peace. On which, it being nearly night, and I being unwell with the fever and ague, I thought it advisable to submit to the law and put up for the night. In the morning I gave Mr. Todd a piece of gold to change for my bill. He turned it several times in his hand, appearantly considering how to get the most of it, when I was ordered to pay a fine for breach of Sabbath, of ten Shillings. Against this I remonstrated, observing that I had complied with the law by peacibly stopping when required although I was in search of a horse that had strai'd away, which was customary to look for, and allowed by Scripture &c. Briliancy of the gold excelled my arguments, and the fine was insisted on. I demanded and got my change, refusing to pay my fine, and set out on my journey. As I went out at one door, I perceived that the Justice ordered some men to stop me. The Justice' oldest son Alicum Todd got into the road some distance before me. I picked up a club to clear my way, but finding four men in pursuit of me, I considered it advisable to submit and went back before the Justice who put me under keepers. I still refused to pay my fine. A committe-mens was threatened to send me to prison. Several

people of the town came in, who, I saw, thought strange of the proceedings. I found the Justice also was uneasy, and he offered to throw in all the costs of the keepers, &c. The fear of loosing my horse, &c., induced me to pay my fine. I put on my hat in order to go, when the Justice began to give me a lecture for disorderly behaviour, ordering me to take off my hat and attend to what he said. To which I answered that all travelers had a right to wear their hats in the bar room of a public house, and if I had broken any law, I had paid my fine and was at liberty. The Justice continued his lecture, when I observed that I paid Mr. Lee of Salisbury for preaching. On this, I was again put under keepers for contempt to authority. Much altercation passed and I was again threatened with a prison; to which I cordially consented to go, observing that it would carry me almost home, and that I would send to my brothers to give bail &c. The Justice offered to release me if I would make a confession; to which I agreed, if he would tell me what to confess to. The Justice being willing to get rid of me, as several people were present and he dared not send me to prison, informed me of a long story to confess to. I began as he directed, but soon had forgotten what he had told me, when he repeated it again. I began again, but forgot a part of the last, when he again repeated it to me. I then went through the whole, adding that I acknowledged I was guilty of original sin. Seven miles from that, a daughter of Mr. Todd was married to an innkeeper, where I called and related the whole story much to the dis-advantage of Mr. Todd. His son in law soon informed him thereof. He sent his son to Mr. Noble in Williamstown to get a writ for me. I was at a friends house and saw his son pass. I suspected his business and got my friend to inform him of the state of the business on which he refused giving a writ. My horse was

taken up two months after in Williamstown on one of my advertisements.

Soon after going from Sunderland with the care of the hogs, I was taken with the fever and ague, which complaint I was unacquainted with, and my business required me every day in the woods. I persevered till I had the seventh fit in the woods which was so severe while the fever was on, I was so weak that I was ~~[illegible]~~ on all fours up one sharp pitch of hill in Charlemount (as I had taken a different place on account of the snow going early off.). That evening, my brother Heman came to see me. The day but one following, being my fit day, while in bed contemplating how to get clear of ague, I felt my fit coming on some hours earlier than common, I took it in my head to bathe in a mill pond near the house. I arose, put on but few clothes, putting a blanket over me, and hastened to the pond, which was thick with anchor frost. I stripped off my clothes, ran out on a log with a determination to dive three times into the water. I dived twice, and when I got the second time on the log, my feet were so numb that I could scarcely feel the log. I hastened to my clothes, and with trembling limbs got them on, and made the best of my way for the house, at first slow, but a little exercise gave motion to the blood, and in going ten rods to the house, began to sweat smartly. I sat a few minutes by the fire & went to bed, and sweat powerfully for about six hours which broke my fits of the ague. I have, to remark that this was too harsh for my constitution, especially to dive a second time through anchor frost where the water was about ten feet deep. Perhaps but few constitutions would have borne the shock to have got out.

I returned from Albany to Salisbury to my 84
brothers, where I rested a short time. My sister
Lydia, who was married to John Finch, and lived
at Goshen, was sick and I went to her assistance.
After sitting by her three days and nights without
sleep, some Medicines were ordered by her physicians,
that could not be had nigher than Esopus in the
then colony of New York, being about sixty miles.
I set out express; changed horses several times,
and got the Medicines. On my return in the silent
watches of the night, I fell asleep on my horse
and was awakened by his stopping at a pair, of
bars out of the road. The night being cloudy,
I was quite at a loss which way to go, However
I set out and was right. I arrived with the
Medicines in Goshen early next day, but my
sister died in a few days after.

My mother about this time was taken
with a fit of the nerve palsey in Goshen, and
lost the use of one side. I was attentive to her
more than a month. When her physicians judged
she could bear moving in a carriage to Salis-
bury, Heman assisted, and we carried her to Salis-
bury where she enjoyed a tolerable state of health
for several years.

About this time, (although a minor) I sold my
share of the estate of my honored Father deceased for
£ 48, and gave a deed of the land. In the fall I
purchased some rights of land in Poultney, (now
Vermont.) I viewed Castleton, Hubbardtown, and learn-
ned that Capt. Isaac Searles of Williamstown was a
large proprietor in Hubbardton, who was then in Boston
I returned to Salisbury.

In 1771, my brothers Heman and Levi Allen, began
began a large branch of business in dressing deer skins
by milling, and making leather breeches, Levi having

been in the Indian trade to Maumetown 700 miles N. westerly of Detroit. They had procured leather dressers and breeches makers, natives of Ireland, who were too fond of strong drink and could not be trusted alone at a fulling mill. I went with Michael Flin to Mr. Ensign's fulling mill, at the head of Canon Falls in Housatonnuc River, being the first time I was ever in such a mill. It had very little in its construction. We arrived there late in the day & just set the mill to work; & then having secured our leather, & fastened the doors for safety, we slept in the mill. In the gray of the morning Flin got up and set the mill again to work. In a few minutes the Mill was out of order. Flin shut the water gate and stopped the mill; but had not ingenuity enough to find what was out of order. From the operation, I judged where the defect was, and while Flin was by my side, I jumped from the floor into the water. When I had looked under and seen what was out of order, I rose and looked on to the floor and Flin was missing. The floor being even with my shoulders, as I stood on the water wheel between the arms, I instantly clasped my hands on the floor and leaped upon it, and was at a loss whether my feet struck the floor first, or the water the wheel, for Flin a stupid fellow not noticing where I was, had drawn the water gate. Had I not leaped from the wheel the instant I did, I should undoubtedly have lost my life; for the wheel had but just room to turn between the rocks; where a place had been cut for that purpose, and the water from the wheel soon fell down the falls over rocks 72 feet in height, being the whole height of Canon falls, if my memory is correct. I repeatedly attended to the milling of leather and gained the whole knowledge of that mode of dressing, as also allum dressing, which preserves the fur, making white, soft leather, for ladies muffs, trimings for cloaks, &c.

In the course of this time and I agreed
to be conserned in purchasing lands together, and went
in search of of said Capt. Searls, and purchased from
him 32 rights of land in Hubbardtown, which from
our small earnings and industry, as aforesaid,
we paid for, giving sixty four pounds for the
lands, about 10.000 acres. We had also purchased
four rights in Castleton. In the fall of 1771, I set
out to get the town lines of said Hubbardton run, to
lay out part of our lands. I agreed with Captain
Remember Baker of Arlington to assist me. When
we arrived in Castleton, we were informed that the West
and North line of that town had not been run.
The inhabitants of Castleton would not assist us, nor
inform me where they had laid out lands in Castleton
as they were about making some other pitches, which
they ment to accomplish before I laid out my lands,
lest they might interfere with the four rights we
owned. I was therefore necessitated to run two lines
of Castleton to find Hubbardton; which Baker and I
proceeded with some assistance to do. On the North
side of Castelton, on Sucker Brook, I discovered an
excellent tract of intervale, in Castleton. On careful
inspection, finding no lines ^we surveyed this, with some
other lands near to our rights; to the great mortification
of some people in castleton, as they supposed those lands
to have been in Hubbardton. Continuing our line
to Meeds brook, we cut off fefteen hundred acres of
land surveyed for Castleton, which added to the vex-
ation of Castleton people. I then proceeded to lay out
some lots in Hubbardton. In a few days, Baker
and I projected the project to learn the quantity of
the lands to the North; and the distance to the old
Crown Point road, a road cut by the provincial
troops about the year 1759, from Crown Point to
Charleston No. 4. To effect this, I was to take

five days provisions in my pack and and set out alone, while Baker, with his son a boy 12 years old, was to make a camp about two miles from where we were on Sucker Brook, where I was to find him and proceed to run some cross lines. We parted to accomplish our objects. I took a little gun with me, more for the purpose of making fire, than hunting. It had been some days loaded; yet I thought so little of killing deer, that I did not discharge it. The day was calm, and the leaves so dry that a man might be heard to walk at forty rods distance. After continuing march about four miles, I discovered a large buck at about 14 rods distance. His head was down (in pursuit of a doe as I suppose) which prevented his discovering me till I was preparing for a shot at him, as he stood fair broad side. I brought my gun to bear on him, and fired as it was rising. The powder being damp, the buck leaped off unhurt and stopped in a small hollow, from which he would come in sight within twenty rods. I therefore prepared for another shot, extremely vexed at having my gun so out of order. I turned down a charge of powder, and then a ball, which stopped when one third down. I then drew my ramrod to push down the ball, but it stuck so tight that I drove my gun-stick many times with all my might to get it down, which I effected. At this instant, the old buck advanced towards me. By the time I could prime, he came in full sight, and stopped behind trees, so that I had about eight inches of his body to shoot at. To shoot him through the guts would be of no use to me. I must therefore cut his back bone, or all was soon lost. I leveled for it, and had the good fortune to break his back at about eighteen rods distance. I loaded my gun and advanced to him. His hind parts were useless on the ground; but he stood on his forefeet. Having only five charges of powder, I did

not choose to spare another on him. I set down my gun, and drew a small knife and took him by the horn, and turned his head round, and put my knife to cut his throat. As soon as it cut the rough thick skin, he gave his head a shake that threw me a rod and wrenched my left arm much, and I lost my knife, so that it took me some time to find it. I then made at the buck again, when he set his hair forward, changing the color of his eyes to a frightful hue. I took hold of the point of his horns, but found he braced so hard that I could not turn them one inch, notwithstanding he had the largest horns I ever saw, that gave considerable purchase. He often turned his head with such sudden motion and force, that the prongs of his horns would go through a man, which completely guarded his neck, as his horns were larger than my arm. I therefore shot his brains out; and then loaded my gun and set it down. Just as I was taking his head off, stooping down, I heard a noise like a deer stepping in the leaves. For fear fear of scareing him, I raised myself very slowly & looking sharply where I supposed I heard the noise, I discovered another buck at about 14 rods looking right on me. The difficulty was was then to get my gun at three steps distance I made so slow and careful moves, stepping in the leaves wet with blood, roots, &c., to prevent noise. I took my gun with so slow motion that the buck did not perceive me stir. When I had my gun near my face, cocking it gave him the apparent motion of a kind of start. I fired at him, when he leaped off. I perceived he failed in one of his fore legs. I loaded my gun and went to the place, and found fine hair, and a knob of hair drove into a stump. Pursuing on the track about six rods, I saw a gore of blood, and

at about twelve rods found him dead, with his head towards me. The ball had gone through his heart, yet he ran twelve rods. The ball flinched as it passed his shoulder blade. I drew this back to the other, and took off his skin & hung up the venison with my hat over it to preserve it from ravens &c; and returned to Baker and found him near dark making his camp.

Baker had also a singular encounter. He found it necessary to measure a line a short distance over a high ridge. He took the fore end of the chain, tally sticks & hatchet, with his compass, with which he was much incumbered. As he went down the hill, he saw at the root of a tree, some signs as though there were raccoons there. As he came close to the tree, he discovered a bear's paws in the hollow. The bear attempting to come, Baker dropped his compass &c. and took his hatchet in both hands; but in attempting to bring it back for a blow, he was prevented by a bush, when coming foreward, faster than he expected, instead of striking her in the head, struck her in the neck. She started back with difficulty & Baker got out the hatchet; for it was in her neck to the helve, and had cut some large blood vessels. Every time Baker could get a stroke at her, he did, till she bled to death. He then got the body out of the tree, skinned, and hung up the meat. Thus ended the adventures of the day.

Baker and I continued our surveys till we were out of provisions, though we had stores at Castleton, several miles distant. Our arrangements would take three days to complete. Baker being an old soldier in the former French war, thought to drive me out of the woods to bring provisions from Castleton, by saying he could live very well on fresh bear meat, without bread, salt or sauce,

three days to accomplish our business. Then I answered if he could live so, I could. Neither would be the first to give back; and we got supplies of said bear-meat roasted, and ate for three days, completed our business and returned to Castleton.

I returned to Salisbury and spent the winter in dressing leather for my brothers as aforesaid, until about the first of March, when I undertook to learn the surveyors art. I spent seven days with a Master, when some other business took me off. I was taken with the Measles, but knew not what the breaking out was; and being an early riser, and going out in the cold before people were up, I drove them in, and knew not what ailed me for six days. Three of the last I was riding in a sleigh against a high wind, which exceedingly injured my eyes. The Measles left my blood out of order. My eyes were so weak that I could not study on the Surveyors art, nor read, nor could I bear the reflection of the Sun on the Snow. I consulted Doctr Port, who advised me to put a green silk over my eyes, and recommended for a short time to keep from the day light, or any bright light. In compliance, I shut myself in a small room, and brought to the window shutters so close that I could scarcely perceive when it was day. At night, when the candles were out, and the fires raked up, leaving only a few coles, I used to walk the other rooms, and sometimes out of doors. In this way I continued for seven days; and found great advantage to my eyes. I kept from the light most of the time, omitting to read or look steadily at any thing for near a month, and then I set out for Hubbardton, wearing a green silk over my eyes.

In May, 1772. I reached Bennington & while stopping a little there, an express arrived from Heman Allen, informing that governor Tryon, with British troops, was on his way from New York to dispossess the people of the New Hampshire grants of their lands. This news was sent by express by some Quakers in New York, interested in said lands. The British troops had

just before interfered in land disputes on Baitman's Patten in opposition to Penter grass, and taken him; and he had been condemned to be hanged by the Supreme Court of New York. These circumstances confirmed said report. A meeting of the Elders of the people and officers of the Green Mountain Boys was held at Mr. Brackenridge's when a unanimous vote passed to oppose Tryon. But the manner of defence was quite a question, till the old people agreed to furnish the necessary supplies and retired. A vote then passed to send one man to Albany, to hear Govr. Tryon in person, and some of his first officers, their numbers and movements, and then to return & give information. He was then then to be joined by six sharp shooters, and make the first attack on Tryon some distance from the line of Bennington, &c. I was appointed to go in to Albany on that business. I was furnished with the best horse for bottom and speed, and went to Albany. After some delays, I found that the facts were that some British Troops were wind-bound in the river eight miles below Albany — that Tryon was not with them — their destination was to relieve the Garrisons of Detroit &c, — on which I returned to Bennington, and the Military operations were suspended.

I then proceeded with captain Baker to Hubbardton, He assisted me in running some lines, in the course of which we got out of provisions. We then wanted to stay about two and a half days. Baker feeling stomach full about eating bear meat as aforesaid, undertook again to try me by observing that he could catch suckers in the brook, roast and eat them without bread, salt, or sauce for two or three days; to which I cheerfully agreed. We went to the brook, and, with crooked sticks instead of spears, caught fish, roasted and eat them. In this way we stopped two and a half days and then went to Castleton. The fish operated on Baker like physic, so that he was but just able to get in to Castleton; when he roundly swore that he would

never again try such measures with me. I then commenced Surveyor for myself, and never after went to a master to learn a rule, but made several rules, which are recorded in my old woods book. 84

I laid out some lands for myself in Poultney and returned to Hubbardton and proceeded to bolting the lands owned by my brother and myself. I was afflicted with boiles till quite lame, by the number of boils on one leg and ankle, and was obliged to quit business. The next day after, an express arrived from Captain Warner, giving an account of Mr. Cockburn, a New York Surveyor's being gone to survey in the Northern woods some where, and desiring me to learn if possible where he was gone. I took D. Remington's horse and himself with me, and went through the woods near to Crown Point, to some inhabitants, and learned that Cockburn was gone to Onion river. I then returned in the old Crown Point road to Col. J. Mead's in Rutland, where I met an express from Capt. Warner, I gave him information of Cockburn and he returned full speed to the Post in Castleton. I met them on the way, and was extremely mortified that I was so lame that I could not go with them. I went to Mr. A Walton's, after being advised to go to Doct. M.c Daniels by Warner and Baker, who had viewed my leg, which was greatly swollen and of different colors, purple &c. This was about the middle of the afternoon, and very hot weather. It was more than thirty miles to M.c Daniels — little more than a line of marked trees; & he an old infirm man that could not come to me. I questioned in my own mind whether a mortification would not take place before I could reach Doct. M.c Daniels. I therefore resolved to be my own physician till next day at least. I applied a milk curd, turned with alum, to my leg, which I repeated several times. I sent and got some old beech leaves, the bark of

male elm and the bark from bass wood roots — pulverized them between stones — steeped them in cold spring water water and applied them to my leg cold. By changing these two sorts of poltices repeatedly during the night, in the morning, my leg appeared a little better, and I continued my own physician till it was well.

While lame, I contemplated the extent of the New Hampshire Grants, and probable advantages that might arise by being contiguous to lake Champlain, and determined to interest myself in that country, as soon as able to ride. I set out to purchase Some lands in the towns contiguous to Onion river, that were owned in Connecticut. At Bennington I met with my brother Ethan, who exerted himself to discourage me; yet I proceeded to Salisbury, and informed Heman of my intentions. He also advised against it, observing that I had not property to make payment, nor commence settlement. I proposed obtaining credit for the lands I purchased, and to undertake Some Job of Surveying to defray the expence of exploring the country. At length Heman gave me a letter of credit for two hundred pounds, and I proceeded and purchased 52 rights of land and got bonds for six rights more on payment. I also contracted with the proprietors of Mansfield to run the out lines of the town, lay a division of 50 acres to each right and build six possession Houses for ninety pounds to be paid on the return the survey, plan, &c, late in the fall. I then returned to my brother and gave him up my recommendation, as I had done this business on my own credit. I saw my brother appeared pleased with my enterpride, and asked how I expected to procure stores &c, to make the survey. I observed that I should contrive some way for it; although I had little more money than to carry me back. In the morning, as I was taking my leave, Heman handed me 32 dollars, observing that I might remit it, when convenient, (this and the letter of

credit was without my solicitation). I then proceeded with good courage. At Arlington I took Capt. Remember Baker into partnership with me for the survey of Mansfield, on condition of his advanceing all the stores and hiring the men for assistance taking his pay when made by the proprietors; setting his advances against my enterpride expences &c, in making the contract. I then showed him the money advanced by my brother, observing in the case of necessity it might be of use to us. A day was assigned to meet at Skeensborough. Baker was to bring on the men and stores, and I to go to Crown Point to purchase a boat and meet him. I then went to Hubbardton and continued my surveys till it was time to go to Crown Point. I then set out through the woods, though again afflicted with boils. I procured a batteau and Waywood, a discharged British soldier to assist me to Skeensborough, where we arrived about one hour before Baker. I then looked for some salts I had purchased to purge my blood on account of the boils, which I had been advised to by a physician, but I had left it. Baker arriving, we set out for Onion river. A few hours after, I was taken with a dysentery that was severe for three days and nights and reduced me to be very weak. Baker advised me to steep white oak bark in water, and take it to check its operation. But I declined, considering that my constitution was throwing off the effects of the measles, boils, &c, as was intended by Doct. Fay, which I really effected, and I never enjoyed better health in my life. We proceeded to Shelburn and stopped at Acres Point, being wind-bound, when Baker and I Vanornum set out through the woods to see the lands and find New Huntington corner, which Baker had seen when in pursuit of Cockburn; and to see if they could discover any signs of N. York surveyors in the woods. We were to meet at the falls of Onion river as soon as the wind would admit. The other man with me went on with the boat to said falls. On landing, I found a camp with some provisions &c. that induced me to suppose a New

York Surveyor was in the woods. I carefully left the camp, leaving no signs of our having been there, and went down the river about two miles to a large intervale, and there formed a camp. I left a sentinel to look out for Baker at the falls, and to see who might come to the camp. My sentinels not being old soldiers, were inattentive, and Baker passed them; and, not finding me, or any signs of my being there, was very hungry and ate some of said stores. After we met, we continued a sentinel and waited some days for the party to come in. When they arrived, Capt Stevens the Surveyor discovered that some body had been there, and before we could attack the camp, and made his escape with most of his party, leaving two men in the camp, which we made prisoners of. Not being able to learn certainly where Stevens was gone, we waited till near dark; when we took Stevens' boat, Stores, and prisoners, and set out for our camp. In the twilight, two boats were discovered coming towards us, who turned and made off faster than we could persue; nor could we discover their numbers &c. We hurried them by our Stores &c, which we had taken the precaution in some measure to secrete. It was then agreed to remain there for the night and keep a lookout. In the morning before sun rise, we discovered two boats coming up the river towards us, which proved to be two bark canoes, four of his men and ten Indians, all well armed with guns &c, and our whole party was seven men. Capt. Baker had a cutlass, I Vanorman a gun and I a case of pistols. These were all the arms we had, nevertheless, we determined to defend the ground. I prepared our men with axes, clubs, &c, and arranged ourselves on the bank about two rods from the water, tying our prisoners to a pole behind. Stevens was the first man out of the canoes, and while the rest were getting out, he came up the bank with a hatchet in his hand, with large pistols pocket, and made towards Baker, brandishing his hatchet. Baker opened his brest, inviting to strike, if he dared. Stevens demanded why his men were tied. Baker answered

it was his pleasure. Stevens drew a scalping knife from his bosom, and turned towards them, (not daring to attempt to strike Baker, as Vanorniam's gun was pointed on him. When about 30 feet of me, I presented a pistol at him, with a solemn word that death was his portion instantly if he stepped one step farther, or attempted to touch the pistols in his pocket. At this, he stopped with a pale countenance, & by this time, his party appeared prepared to come up the bank; when I spoke to Vanorniam, who had been a prisoner with the Indians, to tell the Indians in their own language, that they and we were brothers, that they were welcome to hunt &c, on our lands when they pleased, that this was a land quarrel, that did not concern them. Vanorniam spoke to them in their own language to that effect, and they instantly leaped to their canoes, leaving Stevens and his men prisoners. Stevens then asked me whether I should have fired if he had not stopped. I told him I should for I no notion of being a prisoner & tryed by the Supreme Court of New York, by the acts of outlawry &c. I then pointing the same pistol to a small mark, less than a dollar, in a pole, about the same distance as Stevens was from me, observing that I would suppose that pole to be his body and the mark his heart, I fired. The ball (by chance) struck the pole about half an inch under the mark. There being a truce between Gov^r Tryon and the people of the district of the New Hampshire Grants, we thought it would not be politic to inflict corporal punishment on Stevens. He and his men were dismissed, on pain of death never to come within the district of the New Hampshire Grants again. Their boat, Stores &c, were also returned to them and we parted.

While waiting for the surveying party to come out of the woods, I explored the intervales below the falls of said Onion river, and pitched my tent by a large pitch pine tree, nearly opposite to an island, about one and a half miles below the falls, where I had observed large intervales

on both sides of the river, when I first went up, and landed for the first time I ever set my foot on the fertile soil of Onion river, at the lower end of the meadow now known by the name of the old fields, where I discovered from my boat an opening like cleared lands. In consequence, I directed my men to refresh themselves with spirits and water, while I went to view the lands. I went up the open meadow where the blue joint grass, &c, was thick till in sight of a large and lonely elm. Computing the open field about fifty acres, I was much pleased with this excursion, promising myself one day to be the owner of that beautiful meadow. I observed that the intervale continued on both sides of the river to the pine aforesaid, which was the reason of my coming from the falls down to said pine, to wait the return of Baker and Vanornam, as also the surveying party, as before described. After Baker joined me I took some men with me and laid out lots No. 1 and 2, including the ground we were encamped on, and began a small improvement, declaring to the party that I would make a farm for myself there.— I then crossed the river and laid out lots No. 1 and 2, promising them to Isaac Vanornam. (Afterwards the Onion river Company gave one of said lots to Vanornam, and sold him the other for fifteen pounds.) While making the first corner of said lots, John Whiston by accident struck an axe into his shin up and down to lay the bone bare for two inches. This appeared to me as a great misfortune considering that we had to get our stores near 20 miles up the river over falls &c, and then go six miles back from the river to survey Mansfield. Whiston was carried in canoes, except hobling as well as he could past falls, to the mouth of the brook on which Capt. Holembeek has since erected mills, which by Capt Hubels survey was within Bolton. There we erected a tent. Whiston's leg was swollen and red, and painful. We applied several poltices made of the bark of basswood roots, male elm, spikenard, and old beech leaves

which, in the course of one night, abated the swelling, pain, &c. Baker then found some balsom of fir, which, on lint, we applied to the bottom of the wound, and by repeated dressings, in the course of six days, he was able to walk to Mansfield and pursue business. Baker and the party made themselves some sport at my laying out said lots for Vanornum and myself so far in a wilderness, and in which town I did not own one foot of lands.

After these digressions it may not be improper to give a short account of our proceedings after parting with Stevens as aforesaid. We proceeded with our stores to the falls, & then Baker and I went past the falls and found a suitable tree for a canoe, near the place since established for a ferry in my mill pond. Some were employed in making a canoe, and others bringing on the store. We secreted our boat boat with brush &c. in the cove below the red rocks. As soon as the canoe was completed and lanched, we put in our stores, & set out up the river, and to our great surprise, soon found falls, (that but few people know of to this day). On examining them, we found that by taking out our stores, and lightening our canoe by dressing it over &c, we could draw it by, which we effected. There being a strong current some distance above the falls, part of our stores were put into said canoe, and Vanornam with me set out with setting poles &c. to get above the narrows, which as we passed, appeared like a hideous place. The river, which, below, was 25 rods wide, was here reduced to eighty feet, with rocks perpendicular eighty feet high which in a cloudy day, made a solemn appearance. But being going up the river, we considered ourselves safe, after passing the high rocks and entering a pleasant country. All of a sudden, our canoe took a turn back, which we could not recover with our paddles for some rods. We made a second attempt, and was turned back. This was a mistery, for we could discover nothing but level water,

without any bottom, (it being a dark day) We made the third attempt close to the rocks on the south side, passing the high rocks just below where we were turned back. I got upon upon the side of a rock and held the canoe by the painter, till Vanornam came to my assistance. I then went forward and discovered a rock across the river about two and a half feet under water, over which ran a strong, though apparently still current. Below that bar of rocks, the water is at least 70 feet deep, but its depth to this day is not ascertained. After getting our stores and party together we proceeded up the river to Hubbels falls, where we were obliged to leave our canoe, and carry our provisions &c, on our backs near two miles to get above the rapids where we made another canoe and launched it at the place in Essex, since known by the name of the canoe place. We then proceeded up the river to the mouth of a large brook, by Capt. Hubbels Town Corners, in Bolton, since found to be in Jerico, near the upper corner. There we erected a camp and run a line from the supposed corner of Jerico, to Bolton, six miles N. 45° E. and made the S. W. Corner of Mansfield. Our provisions were carried in packs to a camp we erected near that place. While our men were busied in carrying out said provisions, Capt. Baker with me set out to explore the town, which we found to consist of a tremendous range of mountains, covered with evergreens near the centre of the town. On a high pinacle of the mountain, we discovered a tall black spruce tree, with two seperate branches near the top, which we went near the top of, and could see over the town and a great country. At this time, I was the owner of very near one third of the town; and could not discover lands that would one good farm. This gave Baker an opportunity to pass many hard jokes on me respecting my purchase, &c. We however determined to lay out our division of lots as per agreement

in the south west corner of the town, as there appeared to be the best tract of land, and was the most convenient. We returned to our party and proceeded to run the town lines. Baker took the West and North lines, and I the South and East, and met at the North East corner of the town, and then proceeded to the allotments. We found that we should be short of provisions; in consequence of our delay to take said Stevens, embarrassments in getting up said river, &c. We detached Isaac Vanornam and one man with him to Onion river to catch fish; who were so fortunate in the course of an afternoon and next morning as to catch as many as they could both conveniently bring in their packs after dressed, They returned to us the evening of the second day. These fish were principally trout and very good.

We continued our survey till nearly completed, when Baker cracked the glass to his compass. The weather proving wet, and our stores nearly exhausted, Baker, with a party, agreed to erect six possession houses, girdle &c., in pursuance to my contract with said proprietors, while I finished the survey. Three successive ~~dry~~ rainy days insued, so cold that snow ice or hail was interspersed amongst the black spruce, fir, and hemlock brush on the tops of some hills that I was obliged to pass. Yet I completed my survey and Baker his houses, and for three of the last days I believe that not one of us had a dry thread on us. The next day was clear, and we went to Onion river.

It may be useful to some body to hear remark that about three miles from Bolton old corner nearly S. North East by a small brook, that a man can conveniently step across, is a ledge of stone, forming Westerly about five feet in height, that are excellent rubstones for the use of scythes. By spitting on them, they turn green as much like the Lunenburg rubstones in Connecticut. On the land lotted for Mansfield, near the S. E. corner of Underhill are good millstones.

At Onion river, a question arose which way to return. I wished to explore the of Waterbury, Middlesex, Moretown, &c, in which I was interested in lands, and to return by land to Otter creek, to gain a knowledge of the country. But some weighty obstacles came in the way. Capt. Peley Sunderland was to have brought a small supply of provisions to a certain place & then come to our camp, but he had not joined us. Our prospects were small in expecting to meet him up the river. I had had the misfortune to get the itch at Crown Point, which had been the means of getting my blood out of order, and I was afflicted with boils. We had not provisions for more than three days; but these obstacles did not prevent my proceeding up the river in the morning. I was accompanied by four of our men, viz, I. Vanornam, J. Whiston, C. Sherman, & Bass. Capt R. Baker and P. Hurlburt went down the river to return our boat to Crown Point. Thus we parted, having seen no persons in the wilderness, except Capt. Sam.l Elmer, and some men from Sharon, that had been to survey, &c, Stow. I proceeded up the river, and back from the river, nearly to the N.E. corner of Middlesex, visiting the tops of hills, climbing trees on the heights to learn the quality of the country. I returned to the river, to the entervales now in Waterbury, where we found a camp covered with bark. A snow had begun to fall, and we had not found Sunderland, and had not more than one meal of victuals a piece. In addition to this, I had four large boils on one knee, that had that day got to be very troublesome. The weather being stormy as aforesaid, near night, we agreed to make the best of the bark camp for the night. In the mean time, a question arose as to the course and distance to the first house in Pittsford (Mr. Water's). I was soon convenced that very different opinions would arise as to the course to pursue next day. To give satisfaction to all, I proposed that each man should cut a stick, laying the top poin-

ting for Mr. Water's in Pitsford, & that one should not see how the others laid their sticks, and that I would then take each man's course by the Compass; which was agreed to. The sticks being laid, they formed nearly a half circle, two pointing nearly East, one nearly West, but I. Vanornam and myself pointed Southwesterly with nearly a degree's difference from each other. At this difference in opinion the men were much terrified, considering the snow Storm, shortness of provisions, distance to Pitsford, and the Mountains, &c, in our way. I then proposed to the men that if they would find dry wood to make a light at night, I would suppose from the knowledge we had of the country, a course and distance from Pitsford to Lake Champlain, then a course and distance to the mouth of Onion river, then a course and distance up the river to where we were, then calculate our course and distance to Mr. Water's. The men cheerfully agreed to furnish the dry wood, and I made the calculation by fire light, which fortunately fell between the course projected by I. Vanornam and myself; (the particulars of which I do not at present recollect), which gave great satisfaction to the party. Being satisfied that Vanornam could keep a course in the woods as well as myself, and being lame myself, we agreed that he should, by the help of a small compass to look at occasionally, take the lead of the party. These matters being settled, we went to sleep. In the morning, the snow was over shoes, and the weather cold and cloudy. I found my boils more troublesome. Indeed my knee was quite stiff. The question was to get across the river. Vanornam proposed to make two rafts, ~~leaving~~ which all instantly agreed to, leaving me to rest till one was completed, when Vanornam was to pass with me, and the rest were to follow as soon as might be. One raft being completed, Vanornam & I embarked, putting a large firebrand on the raft, &c. We pushed off

with our setting poles, and found a strong current in the river, which drove us down as we passed; and to our great misfortune, we were twice wrecked on piles of gravel stones, (collected by fish, as the Indians informed, to secure their spawn, or young.) After passing the last, when two thirds across the river, we were so wrecked that our raft would not bear the weight of more than one. Vanornam leaped into the river to return, that I might gain the opposite shore; which I attempted, but I found that the raft was so wrecked, and that the current was carrying me down stream, so that the raft would sink in deep water, before I could gain the other shore. I therefore found it necessary to quit the raft and gain the shore from where I came. The water was almost to my armpits. The cold affected my boils exceedingly, but I gained the shore about forty rods below where I embarked, and made the best of my way up the river past our camp, not speaking one word in answer to the men. But when I had gained the proper fording place as discovered on the raft. I pushed into the river and Vanornam directly followed. When the other men saw our course, they quit the raft they were making for themselves and followed us; We were soon on the other side of the river, where we made a fire of dry wood that fortunately came in our way. After warming and taking a few mouthfulls of provisions, (for our stores would not afford a breakfast,) We set out on our course, as before stipulated. My knee was so stiff that I could not make use of the knee joint, and was painful; yet I kept up with the company. At night, I set down while the men erected a camp of hemlock bows &c, where we spent the night. In the morning, we pursued our journey. In the course of the day; we found where a Moose had been browsing. Vanornam immediately pursued and soon came up with him, and had a fair shot; but a misfortune had

befallen his gun. One of the men had felled a small tree, the top of which had crooked the gun, so that Vanornam missed the Moose, fair broad side at about ten rods distance. This was a great misfortune, and hungry as we were, it occasioned round oaths &c. We continued our course and camped at night as before. In the morning, my knee was so stiff that I could not bend the joint, and very painful. Nevertheless I pursued my journey. Before noon, the men complained severely that our course was too much to the South, — that we were taking the range of the Green Mountains lengthwise and that we had traveled far enough to be against Pittsford &c. By the assistance of Vanornam, I persuaded them that we were right and continued our course some time. After crossing high ground, where it appeared that we could have a prospect to the West, I advised Vanornam to climb a Spruce tree, whose lofty summit might show Crown point, or some thing by which we might regulate our course. Vanornam discovered high mountains to the West, but could not tell where they lay. At this I ascended the tree to the top, where I discovered that said Mountains were to the N. W. of Crown Point. We continued our course till another dispute arose, when Vanornam agreed with the men that it was best to turn West, observing if we should come to Otter Creek too far down, we might stand a chance to catch some fish, and on the West side should find a foot path that might in some measure compensate for the farther distance, and that we should probably find little or no snow. We turned West and saw water to the North, (which I since have found to be Leister Pond.) At evening we came to & crossed Otter creek by the help of rafts we made. We soon found an old camp covered covered north bark, which we took possession of as a fortunate event, as it began to rain and proved a rainy night. Ex

the course of the day Vanornam had killed one partridge which we boiled in a tin kettle, adding some black pepper to season it, it being all that remained of our stores. The meat and sack were equally divided and useful to us, but rather sharpened than satisfied our appetites. In the evening we had some amusement at the expense of Mr. E. Sherman, who, hearing a screach owl hoot, mistook it for a woman's voice, when he rushed hastily out of the camp into the rain, to answer his supposed female friend; which he repeatedly attempted with a loud voice, which the owl answered. Sherman called aloud for us all to follow him, for she had answered him — that he would not stay starving all night in hearing of a house &c. Notwithstanding none followed, Sherman set out alone. After he had gone some distance from the camp, he was informed that it was an owl, and that if he went much farther, he would get lost &c. After some hesitation, he returned. These enabled us to pass some time merrily.

In the morning, we proceeded up the creek, though my boils had not broke, nor could I make the least use of my knee joint. The boils were painful, yet I kept up with the party. Just before we arrived at Mr. Water's, I met a man of my acquaintance, stopping with him a few minutes, the men arrived first at the house at about twelve o'clock and made inquiry for something to eat. They were answered that there were corned mutton and turnips, boiling for dinner, and bread was baking, which would be done as quick as any thing could be cooked. The men set down, impatient to wait for it. When I came in, being informed, as above, though a stranger in the house, I went directly into the buttery, where I found some old dry crusts of bread, which I divided amongst the men and myself, informing Mrs. Water's of our hungry situation. In fact sharp hunger had abated, and each man from

hunger and fatigue felt faint and weak. I had discovered some milk in the buttery, & consequently, I requested some pudding to be made with Indian meal, as soon as possible; which was immediately done, and divided amongst us; about half a pint of milk with some pudding to each man, which took the whole of the milk. In a few minutes the mutton and turnips were brought on the table. I cut a piece for each and distributed to each man about an equal proportion, cautioning them against eating too much at first. Elijah Sherman seizing on a second piece of meat, I removed the platter, &c., and delivered them to Mrs. Waters with a request that none of the party should have anything more to eat for two hours; repeating the fate of some of Majr. Robt. Roger's Rangers, who, after getting through the wilderness from burning the indian towns of St. Francois, killed themselves by eating as soon as they came to provisions on Connecticut river, in the year 1759, if my memory serveth for a right date. This rehersal seemed to satisfy the men, though what we had eaten only gave a sharper appetite. A short time after, E. Sherman was missing, and search being made for him, he was found very fast asleep. He was shook &c; but remained senseless. I directed two men to take him by the arms and make him walk at some rate. They continued exercising him in this way, about one hour before he came to his senses and the regular use of his limbs. Every one present was convinced that Sherman never would have awakened again, if he had not been exercised as aforesaid. This ought to caution men against eating much at first, after having suffered by hunger, especially when hunger has changed to faintness, and by no means to go soon to sleep. For sleep in that case has the same effect on the human body, as when it is fatigued and benumbed with cold till sleepy. In either case, if a person gives way to sleep, they die insensably. Hence it is that people bewildered are often found frozen in a posture of sleep, sitting by trees &c. To return

to my narrative, we ate sparingly once in two hours till bed time. I then paid the bill, determining to have a walk of ten miles to Mr. Asa Johnson's for breakfast, there to try to satisfy hunger. We went to rest, but hunger got the better of sleep. Before day light, there being a full moon, and clear sky, about an hour before day, we set out for Mr. Johnson's. In a dark place, I stuck a knot into the boil on my knee pan that broke it, which caused severe sensation and some harsh words, but I could walk the better after it. At Mr. Johnson's, we feasted heartily on fresh bear meat, with tea, bread and butter, to finish a very extravagant breakfast. I then proceeded to my brother's in Poultney, where I remained very quiet till my boils were well. Had I been at home when those boils were on my knee I should have supposed that I could not have walked one rod; for they were four tremendous great boils on one knee. But necessity compelled me to cross the range of Green Mountains. Human nature in enterprising young men is capable of enduring more hardships than mankind generally allot to their species, which my exertions near the close of this year will evince, (See December in Hubbardtown).

As soon as my knee was well, I went and pitched some some lots of land up Poultney river, and North of it, for my brother Zimri Allen and myself. In the course of looking out this land, my brother Ethan Allen was amusing himself in hunting and killing deer. He often invited me, as I had been fortunate in killing two bucks in one day, while looking lands in Hubbardton, to lay by my compass, and hunt for deer. To which I observed that a compass &c, was as amusing to me as hunting deer, yet if deer came in my way, when looking lands, and I had a gun by me, I could kill them as well as he could; but that I was not so fond of killing deer as to injure my constitution, or other objects in life in pursuit of them. However to gain a knowledge of

lands, &c, that my brother had often passed in hunting &c, I agreed to take three days provisions, and he the same rations in our packs, and travel together. He was to show me the best lands vacant, and to kill deer, if they came in our way. The weather was dry and the leaves noisy, and of course unfavorable for hunting. My brother, I acknowledge, took a quick step, which was hard for me to keep up with. However with difficulty I accomplished it. The second night we lodged at Peck's camp up Cambray river near Tinmouth line. Mr. Peck and my brother in the course of the evening had a high banter, and some bets laid for shooting at mark next morning; to which I had very little to say. We made use of the blankets we carried with us to sleep upon, and retired for rest. In the gray of the morning, Mr. Peck and my brother were up and preparing their guns, &c, and soon began to fire. Some I heard, and others sleep prevented the notice of. They continued their sport till the sun was two hours high, and then came into camp and found me fast asleep. My brother rebuked me for sleeping so late that I could not eat breakfast &c, as I had had no exercise; when I observed that I had had the best of exercise to travel with him, and could eat breakfast sufficient to serve me the remainder of the day, without once stopping to eat or drink. Turning over, I took a large piece of raw fat pork with bread and began to eat in as voracious a manner as possible.

Mr. Peck and my brother could by no means equal me, but being both anxious to begin their hunt, made their breakfast on bread and port. My brother made a light breakfast. We pursued our pursuits with vigor. In the course of the day, my brother proposed dinner, but I wished not for any, my breakfast still serving me. My brother then took a quicker step, thinking I should faulter; yet I made my way good. The real facts

were that for a few days he could out travel me in the wilderness. Act on a long seige and corse fair, raw pork, &c., I could out do him. He was a man of firm constitution, larger and stronger than myself. Act coarse diet, &c., better supported me than him; which was also the case with my late and much respected friend, Capt Remember Baker, the first man that was killed in the American was in 1775, in the Northern Department.

N. B. These Memoirs having been written in prison ire unpleasant circumstances, two trifling circumstances were omitted, that should have been noticed early in this year (the summer of 1772.) On going into Hubbardton in May, Capt. John Grant of Poultney went with me to look out lands with a view for settlement. My quarters, stores &c. were then at Mayr Abel Moltons of Castleton, from where we took our departure. I had hired James Berry an old English Soldier to assist me &c. We proceeded to Hubbardton to the camp Capt Baker, and I made on Sucker Brook, West of Mount Zion, where we spent the night. In the morning, Capt Grant and I set out to view Hubbardton, directing our coure Northeasterly, and finally went down the large brook that empties into Castleton pond, viewing the intervales &c. Grant agreed for a lot then No. 15 & we then proceeded North &c. till we perceived it was after sundown. (The whole day had been cloudy.) At this, we considered a moment to determine our course to return to our camp, and it being late, we made a forced march till we came to a brook. We supposed from the appearance of the lands, bigness and cource, as Baker looked at his pocket compass, that this was the head of Sucker Brook, for we had began to look out for it, before we came to it, and of course were satisfied that by following the brook

down, we should come to our camp. Without further attention, we made great haste down the brook, expecting it would not be dark by the time we could arrive. At dark, we had not found our camp. The Misquetoes were troublesome. The darkness of the night made it bad traveling. We however made the best of our way till we grew impatient. When it appeared some lighter, we supposed the clouds were about breaking away. But a jealousy arose in my mind, that we were on Meads Brook, and that we had got down it into some girdled lands in Castleton. By feeling with my hands round the trees, I found them girdled. This proved to us that we were on Meads Brook in Castleton. A question then arose whether we would go down the brook to Castleton river, and then take the road and then go to Moltons, about three Miles: This we could do without danger of being lost; or whether we would take our chance to find our camp, at least four miles. We both agreed at once to make trial for our camp: but we differed in the mode of proceeding. Capt. Grant was for going up the brook, taking that for our guide, till we came to a great jam of flood wood, wind fall &c., by Castleton line, that he particularly noticed the day before, and where we left the brook and struck through the notch between Castleton hills and mount Zion. I was for paying no further attention to the brook, but take a coarse Northerly till we supposed we were far enough to turn through the notch Northwesterly to Slucker brook, and strike that below our camp, and follow it up to our camp. I was certain there was no brook came into it, that would lead us estray, &c. However Grant being the oldest and much accustomed to the woods, I submitted to his plan. We passed up the brook with all possible speed, occasionally crossing the brook, as it was crooked, and for convenience of traveling, keeping near by it. Some times one led the way, and some times the other.

After traveling till we thought it high time to come to the flood wood &c., aforesaid, when we were crossing the brook on a log, I observed that I thought I had seen that place before, and made a stop on the log. Grant feeling out of humor, being vexed with Musquetas &c, damned me for a fool &c. calling on me to come on. Nevertheless I took my hat off, and having laid it on the water, it went the same way we were going, of which I informed Grant. He swore it was an eddy. I tried the experiment from one side of the brook to the other, and found it the same. Grant came back & the facts were, that, by some turn or crook of the brook, we had not observed changing the brook from one hand to the other, and were actually going down the brook. This not a little confused & vexed us; but we immediately set out again up the brook. After traveling considerable time, we found uneven ground, and that we were ascending; which induced us to examine the bigness of the brook, &c., apprehending that we were led estray by some small brook, coming into the main brook, and were ascending the hills on one side or the other, the darkness of the night &c. preventing any satisfactory conclusion. We proceeded up the brook, till Grant of a sudden caught hold of me and stopped me... In viewing the brook, we had made a short turn, and two steps more would have dropped us down; as near as we could guess 15 feet perpendicular. The whiteness of the water over a small fall attracted Grants eyes, and prevented our stepping off. (This shows the danger of traveling in rough broken lands in the dark.)

We were now convinced that we were led estray by some small brook, coming into Meads brook; but whether to the East or West, we were quite at a loss, but that would make a material odds in the cource to the camp. Grant was extremely vexed and beat with his plan of following brooks, which gave me room to laugh at him, and say if he had heard to me, we should have been at our camp. Grant laid down on the ground and swore that the devil could not find

the way through these woods in a dark night without some guide, and seemed not much inclined to make further trial till daylight. I told Grant that I would by walking a few rods alone determine on a course that would lead us to our camp. After some consideration I called Grant and told I could find our camp, but he should follow me, and I was confident I should go right. We set out again on this plan, and the first thing material was that it began to grow lighter. We concluded that the clouds had began to break away, and had caused it; neither of us believing it to be the dawn of day, as it was not time for daylight. (Perhaps this is the first time ever two men traveled all night amongst Musquetas &c, and daylight came too soon.) However the light increased and the birds began to sing. It was just light enough to see the pocket compass, when we came to the height of a sharp high ridge, when we found our course was due West. I climbed to the top of a tree to see if I could make any discovery, to learn where we were. The weather being bad for prospect, and I but little acquainted, I could not be certain where we were. (For better satisfaction, we walked North on the ridge, where at about 30 rods, we found a marked line E. & W. In a few minutes I saw the place where Capt. Baker killed the bear with his hatchet the fall before. This line extended west directly to our camp, which was about two miles distant. (So it appears that the course I had taken would have brought to the camp.) We arrived there some time before sun rise & took refreshments, and immediately set out again to view Hubbardton. We went to the West, Northwest and Northerly parts of the town, and returned to our camp just at dark; so we had continued our walk two days and one night without resting. After taking some refreshments, we slept very sound.

In the course of this summer 1772, I took

a singular stroll. I took six days' provisions in my pack, a small pocket pistol, little horn of powder, and a hatchet of a small size, for the benefit of making fire &c. and set out to view the country, a little to the North of Hubbardton. One evening, I had made a fire, and as there appeared a prospect of rain, I had cut some crotches, &c, and stretched my blanket to keep off the rain, and cut some hemlock boughs for a bed, and laid down for repose, when I was soon disturbed by hearing thunder at a distance, preceded by the roaring of a tremendous wind. The falling of trees was incessant, and I found the hurricane was coming directly to me. Safety became the great question, and I had little time for consideration. I recollected seeing a large pine, that was turned up by the roots. Under this log I had got some dry wood to make my fire. I took a brand of fire to light me to it, and to see how to get into the best safety. I found it to be a large log about two feet from the ground near the roots; and at about eight feet, lay firm on the ground. I considered this a safe retreat if all the trees in the woods were turned up by the roots. I had little more than got possession of my new habitation, when the wind, rain, thunder and lightning reached the place. A great many trees and branches of trees were brought to the ground, and some fell on every side of my fire, within eight or ten feet of it. One tree fell across the log under which I lay a little distance from me. The storm was soon over, when I repaired in search of my fire, and by the help of one dry, small, Hollow log fire was retained and a little light to find it. My blanket was blown down, but not far off. I repaired my fire &c, and slept very comfortably the remainder of the night.

Two days after the aforesaid hurricane I ascended a high precipice or top of a Mountain, east of a long pond, the source of Hubbardton River, in said town, where I found a great prospect to view the adjoining country.

The day being clear and air pure, contributed much to my prospect of learning from the top of a tall Spruce tree, which stood within thirty feet of a ledge I judged to be at least 300 feet perpendicular, facing westerly, and then loose stones lay with a steep descent some considerable distance above the tops of the trees. These circumstances faced the top of a very high eminence. I had a small compass, between the size of a common surveying compass and a pocket cumpass, with which I could occasionally run a line, as it had sights, &c. I took this in my pocket, and hatchet in my hand and climbed to the top of the tree. With the hatchet I cut off the top and trimmed it to answer as a compass staff, and placed my compass on it, turning and viewing lands at a great distance. While thus amusing myself, the day being some windy, a sudden gust of wind caused the top of the tree to wave over the ledge aforesaid. At this unlucky moment, for the first time, I chanced to cast my eyes down the tree, waved by the wind over, it had the appearance that I was going to the bottom. This gave me sensations, not easily expressed. Let it suffice to say it caused a general chill to the motion of the blood — a strong feeling in my head and heart, with weakness in my limbs, at which prudence dictated to me to put the compass instantly into my pocket, and go down the tree. I went about two thirds down the tree, and stopped, and, on a few minutes reflection, came to my usual feelings. I then considered that the wind was not so high as at many other times; that I must be unlucky indeed if the tree fell in the time necessary for me to take minutes of the lands in the adjacent country. I resumed my courage and went and set my compass on the top of said tree, and with my pen, made regular minutes of my discoveries, without looking down till my business was finished & I ready to descend. I then looked to the bottom, but it gave too unpleasant sensations to stay at

the top & I went down. From such a view, I could gain as much general knowledge of the country, as by a weeks traveling through the low lands, as the weather was favorable &c.

The fifth day of my stroll, I was on the top of an other high ledge, after climbing a tree, and viewing the country &c, I came down and discovered a large stone that I could easily roll off; which, for amusement I did and several others. This place was about sixty feet, nearly as steep as the roof of a house, then broke off nearly one hundred feet more, then loose rocks &c, down to the trees, &c. A little down the side of the ~~last~~ mentioned steep part of the rock, lay a rock twice as big as a hogshead, and appeared easily turned off. I viewed it for some time, and then ventured down, taking off my shoes. I was very cautious observing small bushes that grew out of the cracks of the rock, and one just by the stone I wished to roll, also feeling their strength in the rock &c. When I came to the rock I could not stir it. I went back and cut two pries; there being a place I could put them under, and put my feet on the ends, so that I made use of both strength and heft to turn the rock off. By this means I turned it. A craggy piece of the rock, that projected towards me, and which I took hold of when the rock moved, came against me as I was stooping over it lifting, and came near throwing me over the rock. I, by exertion, extricated myself, caught by the large bush aforesaid, and staid quiet where I was. But the danger I had escaped greatly eclipsed my pleasure in seeing the rock roll. But it went with tremendous force; and striking other rocks in its descent, raised a strong sulphurous smell, and when it came to the standing timber, it cut its way like a bush scythe, carrying with it the butts of the trees, and their tops falling up the hill. This would have been a pleasant sight to me on a safe ground.

I moved carefully to the top of the hill, and have been extremely careful in rolling rocks from such heights ever since.

In the fore part of the sixth day, I returned to my camp. Not satisfied with Hubbardton, or the adjacent country, from this excursion, I began to contemplate a prospect of the country's being better contiguous to Lake Champlaine; That advantages might arise from the waters thereof &c.; That the lands contiguous to said Lake were also granted by the governor of New Hampshire; That what little property I had, was then in lands in Poultney, Castleton and Hubbardton; and not very saleable In this situation, I determined to lay out my lands in company with my brother Jimri, in Hubbardton to the best advantage for sale, and see what luck would happen. While proceeding on this allotment, Jimry came to assist me; but being of a weekly constitution, he could by no means bear the fatigues of the woods with me, and was obliged to remain a considerable part of the time in camp. I contemplated a road from Castleton through Hubbardton to the old road from No. 4, Charleston, to Crown Point, as it might introduce settlements in Hubbardton. One morning appearing to insure a very rainy day, and my compass glass being cracked, I proposed to take a hatchet & mark a road through Hubbardton. My brother quite opposed my attempting it in such a day, alledging that the day was so dark I could not tell where to mark, and that I should only wet and fatigue myself for nothing, &c. Notwithstanding, I took a hearty breakfast, mostly on raw pork and bread, and set out, not taking any thing for dinner &c. I went from my camp on Lucker Brook, West of Mount Zion to Castleton Line and began my road, and proceeded Northwardly. I had laid a small bet with my brother that I should pass in sight of a notty old birch tree we had both seen about two miles from Castleton line,

which tree was surrounded with thick brush not to be seen twenty feet. My road line came directly to the tree and it was marked for the road) I proceeded to mark the line through Hubbardton and about one mile beyond to said old road, and returned to the camp just at dark. The whole day was exceedingly rainy and dark, and I had no compass, nevertheless I passed through the town about five years ago; and found the road had been continued with very little alterations, where I then marked and soon after cut a bridle path.

After closing my surveys in Poultney I proceeded to Hubbardton to finish my surveys there, as I contemplated visiting Orion River in the Spring, if I could make arrangements proper for that purpose. It was therefore essencial to complete my surveys, that a map of the lands might be made to enable my brother to make sale thereof when I was absent, &c., I engaged David Remington to assist me, who was a hardy woodsman, I gave large wages, as we expected to encounter much hardship, as it was late in the fall. Most of the work was laid out by two lines, having been run, measured, & corners made; it being therefore mostly cross lines, and difficult procuring assistance, I took but one man with me. We had our stores at one general central camp, commonly taking in our packs four or five days provisions, and camping wherever night overtook us. As I had early in the fall, as I continued every night, to take off all my clothes to my shirt, and put my blanket round me to sleep, and went thin clothed in the day time. Before we had completed our work, snow fell over shoes, yet we continued camping as before, and lived principally on raw pork and bread. In this hardy way

we continued and completed our surveys between Christmas and New Years, and that night reached our camp West of Mount Zion on Sucker Brook The camp had only a roof down to the ground, the fire side and ends open, The weather had that day become intensely cold, as is commonly the case about Christmas or New Year in that climate. We prepared a plenty of wood, & at bed time Sucker Brook, which rises from springs &c, the heads of which do not exceed two miles course, consequently not early frozen, when it had a quiet motion or current, was not frozen over. I took off my clothes to sleep in my blanket as usual, and did gain some some sleep. But when the fire got low, I turned out with only my shirt on, bare foot, in the snow, and put wood on the fire, (It was before conveniently piled for that purpose.) This night I must confess was exceedingly tedious, & near day I dressed myself, and must confess I felt the advantage of them, and sat up till day light, when said brook was frozen so hard that it bore me to walk on. Remmington had most of the time slept with his clothes on; but I believe my method was the best till the last night, which was most likely as cold as any night that winter. By this experiment I have reason to believe that the savages are not hardier to bear cold than white people. It is only use, being accustomed to it from infancy, and every year, from the first of cold weather, and by day, going thinly cloathed, &c, prepare the body to endure hardship. Examples of this kind I have too often seen in families of poor children, almost naked, playing on the ice, when it would have been much better for them to have been in a good school. The next Morning I returned to Castleton having closed my surveys and the business of the Year.

I then set out for Salisbury in Connecticut on foot. In the way, I gained information of a Mr. Miller, in or near New Providence, in the East part of Berkshire county, that had been a deputy surveyor, &c., from Portsmouth, and had much knowledge of the grants, grantees, &c, of lands on the New Hampshire Grants. I went to see him and found him very intelligible. From him I learnt that Col. Symbs took out the grants of Georgia, St. Albans, Swanton, and Highgate, and his place of residence and that of the principal grantees, with also a list of other grantees. I bought of him a map of all the grants made by Governor Wentworth West of Connecticut river, with the dates of such grants. This was very useful for me, and difficult to be obtained. Mr. Miller was loth to part with it, and when he set a price on it, it amounted to a little more than I had money. Here arose another dificulty, yet I could not be denied the map. I offered to work for him a few days, observing I explored the wilderness of Onion river, drove off Yorkers &c., Mr. Miller, being an obliging man, observed, as I appeared young and enterprising, the map would be of more use to me than to him, and gave it to me; and returned two shillings and sixpence, for my expences home. At this I parted with him very cheerfully, and with economy, made that money and some hunger serve for expence about sixty miles in bad traveling to my brother's in Salisbury in Connecticut.

My next object was to make a map of the township of Mansfield, with the allotments & survey-bills thereof, agreeable to the bond, &c., I had given the proprietors of said town the preceding Summer. I soon completed the map; but

turning my attention to the field books, that Captain Remember Baker and I had kept, a difficulty arose in my mind, for my object was to sell out of Mansfield at all events, and if possible to get the ninety pounds for the survey, &c. A great proportion of the corners of said lots were made on Spruce or Fir timber, and if I described them as such, it would show the poorness of the town, and raise many questions that I wished to avoid. I made use of a stratigem that answered my purpose. In my survey bills, I called Spruce and fir, gumwood, a name not known by the people of Sharon, (the place where the proprietors lived.) They asked what kind of timber gumwood was. I told them tall straight trees that had a gum, much like the gum on cherry trees &c. While the proprietors were busy in inspecting the Map, Survey bills, &c., I took aside the brother of one of the principal proprietors, who was an ignorant fellow, and owned two rights of land in the town. I tryed to buy his rights, but he dared not sell them without first consulting his brother. By this the proprietors all got the alarm that I wished to purchase, and land in Mansfield was considered of consequence. I was urged to sell back to the proprietors the twenty rights I had bought, which I did, and obtained the ninety pounds for the survey, &c., which I considered of more consequence than the whole town. Having closed this business satisfactorily to myself, I returned to my brother's and had a hearty laugh with my brothers Heman and Jemir, on informing them respecting the gumwood &c.

I now owned ~~thirty~~ rights of land in the towns of Bolton, Duxbury, Moretown and

Middlesex, for which I owed Mr. Samuel Averill one hundred and fifty pounds, payable in Net cattle at his house in Rawnay. A part of that, fifty pounds, the first of May then next; the remainder, in two payments, Six Months between each payment. I also had a bond for Six rights more, payable with the other payments, but my object was not to pay for these lands; for my ramble up Onion river, after the survey of Mansfield as aforesaid, had convenced me that the towns near the lake were objects for my attention, if I could form connexions to enable me to extend settlements there. For this purpose I was persuading my brothers to join me in partnership, and had suggested the same idea to Capt Baker, at Arlington, on my return from Connecticat as aforesaid. I now thought it time to visit Mr Averill to see what arrangements I could make with him, determining if possible, to get up my obligations, and to return the land. Yet I ment to gain some advantage to compensate for my hungry march through the woods from Onion river to Pittsford as before stated. To make my plan least suspicious &c, I went to visit two uncles and their families, that lived a few miles from Mr. Averills, who caused a ball and Mr. Averills sons were there. By these means, Mr. Averill learned of my being in the neighborhood. Wishing information respecting Onion river lands &c, he sent word for me to call on him. I sent him word that I should finish my visit in a few days, and call on him on my return, which I did. Many questions arose respecting lands &c. Mr. Averill invited me to spend the day and night with him, and he would be my company to Salisbury on his way to Bennington, which I complied with.

The next evening we spent together at my brother's in Salisbury. Mr. Averill offered to give up my notes, if I would return the deed and bond, which I declined, condedering lands worth more than when I purchased, and I had been at trouble &c, to explore the country, contemplated making a settlement there &c. Mr. Averill agreed to call on me on his return from Bennington. My brother Heman, who heard the discourse took an opportunity and advised me to comply with the proposition, and exchange writings, observing that Mr Averill might not call on his return. I chose to risk my chance. Mr. Averil rode by on his return, without looking at the house. This my brothers and I saw, which gave them room to pass some satires on me. I still insisted that I would gain something for making contracts, &c. About this time, my brothers began to listen to my propositions to purchase lands and extend settlement to Onion river. One circumstance was in my favor. The family were considerably interested in lands on the New Hampshire Grants, and it was apprehended that the Yorkers would attempt to commence settlement there, if the proprietors under New Hampshire did not. Capt. Baker came from Arlington to confer on these matters; and five of us agreed to join in partnership, viz. Ethan Allen, Remember Baker, Heman Allen, Jimmy Allen & Ira Allen. The plan then was to purchase lands, and furnish stores to commence settlement in the towns of Burlington, Williston, Shelburn, Colchester, Essex, and Jerico. Baker and myself were to repare to Onion river in the spring and see to business there; Ethan Allen to remain at Bennington, Poultney &c, to manage political affairs; For the country or district of the New Hampshire Grants was in a

state of war with the colony of New York, not in reality with the body of the people of the colony, but with the governor, Council, Court sycophants, and land jobbers. A premium had been offered by the governor of New York for Ethan Allen, Remember Baker and others to have taken and confined in any of the goals of the colony.

Some lands were owned by Edward Burling and others at the White Plains twenty one miles from New York, which we wanted. Col. Ethan Allen, Capt. Remember Baker and myself, armed with holsters and pistols, a good case of pistols each in our pockets, with each a good hanger, set out to purchase the aforesaid and other lands in the colony of New York. We traveled under the character of British officers, going from Canada to New York to embark for London, and made no small parade. My brother Heman being then in a Mercantile line, set out for New York, but was seldom in company with us, as he was too well known on ~~that~~ road. We put up at a tavern near Mr. Burling's, having previously concerted measures with Heman to acquaint Mr. Burling with our intentions, and the reason of our travelling in that manner, the time we should call on him &c. We proceeded accordingly, and bought a great part of Mr. Burling's lands, and bought of others — Spent three days there, without the suspicion who we were. The evening before we left there, after closing our business, Heman came and put up at the same house, as it was necessary to be together, as we should part next morning, for Heman was to make purchases in

New York, (Jimmy was also occasionally to purchase lands.) It was with much difficulty that Heman could get introduced to our company that evening on account of the diffidence of the landlord and his questions as to the supposed British officers' questioning the character of the Connecticut Merchant, &c. But Heman got leave by bringing in his hand a liberal bowl to be introduced. It was with difficulty we could all keep our countenances till the landlord retired, which he did very soon. It was curious to see the astonishment of the landlord the next morning, when we called in our bill all together and declared who we were, informing a pedlar who was present, going directly to New York, that bounties were offered for us, giving our names &c. We saw the pedlar set out full speed to New York to raise a party against us, as he supposed we were going to continue speculating in lands, depending on our own arms for defence. On his arrival in New York, he went to the Governor and Council, and gave his deposition of our being purchasing lands &c, at the White Plains. At first, it was proposed to send a party of light horsemen after us, and preparations were made for that purpose. But James Duane Esqr observed that we were daring fellows, and no doubt well mounted, & had given this alarm to raise a party to pursue us, and had gone directly out of the colony in hopes of being pursued, to laugh at our pursuers, & that it was in vain to pursue Green Mountain Boys on their guard &c. Mr. Duane was perfectly right, for, within two hours after the express arrived in New York, we were in the colony of Connecticut in hopes of being pursued, to gain a greater appor

tunity to satirize our adversaries. We proceeded then Northwardly in Connecticut till we were opposite to Quaker Hills,—then turned again into the colony of New York, and went to Mr. Benjamin Ferry's, a worthy old gentleman and Quaker Preacher, with whom most of us were before acquainted. The old gentleman was at home. We took our pistols out of our holsters and carried them in with us. He looked at the pistols saying "What doth thee do with those things?" He was answered "Nothing amongst our friends, but we were Green Mountain Boys, and ment to protect our persons and property, and that of our friends on the New Hampshire grants against the unjust claims of the land jobbers &c of New York. The old gentleman showed us a room observing "This is thy room while thee stay in my house—thee may do as thee pleases in thy room." Our horses were put out and we began to converse respecting lands &c, when Mr. Ferry's observed that he "was interested in lands in several places, mostly in Shelburn, where he owned fourteen rights and that we wanted refreshment, rest, &c, and that he would converse with us again in the Morning. He entertained us sumptuously and next morning presented a deed to us of seven of said rights in Shelburn. Turning to me he said "Thou art a young man and I understand a surveyor. Thee must see to lay out one hundred acres on each of my seven rights, one hundred acres on the lake shore, and six hundred acres so as to benefit my grand children, and take care of those rights, but I will pay thee for what the does for me." We parted with our friend Benjamin in great friendship, and I punctually attended to his request respecting

this seven nights.

We then set out for Salisbury, and my brother and Baker proceeded there, but I turned to the right to visit my uncles in Judeah, in order to gain an opportunity to see Mr. Averill with a view to make another trial for settlement. I spent some time to let him know where I was, and hired my cousin Jesse Baker to go with me to Onion river that Summer. This showed that I was in ernest to make said settlements there. I went to Mr. Averill's just at night. Mr. Averil was not at home, but would be that night. Mrs. Averil invited me to have my horse put out, and spend the night there; to which I agreed. Some discourse passed respecting Onion river lands &c, and I informed the old lady that I was going soon there and ment to cut a road &c— had hired Mr. Jesse Baker and others to assist me, and expected Mr. Averil would bear his share of the expence, in proportion to the lands he owned &c. Having slept in the house before, I supposed I might likely have the same bed again, of which one side was next the room we were in, the other next to Mrs Averil's bed room. The house being new, the partitions were prepared for, but not plastered. Of course it would not be hard to hear from one room to the other. I therefore wished to get to bed before Mr. Averil got home; as I expected some dialogue would arise between Mr. and Mrs. Averil concerning me. To effect this, I grew sleepy— it was noticed by Mrs. Averil— I was soon sleepy again— Mrs. Averil very kindly invited me to go to bed. I seemed not to own myself sleepy, & Mrs. Averil observed she believed I had been in young company, and had not slept much for some nights in succession. On the whole I went

to bed, and must confess that I was really sleepy. before Mr. Averil came home; for the clock two just before he arrived. A question soon arose respecting me and was continued even to the bed room. I learned all the secrets, and went quietly to sleep, and did not hurry myself in the morning. When I got up, breakfast was nearly ready. After breakfast, we began our business. I wished Mr. Averil to be at his proportion of the expence of cutting a road, running town lines, &c.; to which he seemed not at all inclined, as I well knew before. I then proposed purchasing his lands. This he was also opposed to. Various questions arose, and most of the day was spent in bringing matters to a close. Mr. Averil at length began to make propositions of giving in part of the rights, if I would give up the deed he had given, and he would give up my obligations, till he offered ten rights. To this I listened with some attention to know in what town I should have them. Mr. Averil seemingly gave me my choice. I chose Bolton. He objected to that, and proposed I should have half in Moretown, and half in Middlesex. After some time I agreed to take the whole in Middlesex, the very town I chose. Deeds were executed without delay. Thus, by two contracts, I got ten rights of land, without paying one shilling, and changed all the former writings. On my return to Salisbury, my brothers Heman & Jimmy, being at home, were inquisitive to know if I had seen Mr. Averil, and settled with him. I informed I had and taken up all my obligations and put them to guess how it was done. Heman guessed I had got one right of land clear, & Jimmy two. I then produced a deed of ten rights, at which they were surprised.

# Spring of 1773.

Soon after this, I set out for Onion river. I went first to Capt. Remember Baker at Arlington, and we made our arrangements in hiring surveyors, men, &c. I took on myself the looking and marking a road from Castleton to Onion river (taking the advantage of the road before marked through Hubbardton.) Isaac Tanorman was the only man I took with me. I took a compass of a size larger than a pocket compass, my pistols for defence against Indians, each a hatchet and blanket, with provisions in our packs. We left Castleton about the first, or tenth of May. From the knowledge I had obtained of the country in six days ramble alone the preceeding summer, & other informations, I was determined to get a road from Hubbardton to Otter Creek, in a convenient place; then to go down the creek, between that and the swamps to Middlebury falls, which we effected. We found a place that appeared would answer for a ford way, unless in high water; to which place we marked our road, blazing the trees so as to be seen from the other side of the creek. We made a raft, & with setting poles crossed on the bar to learn the depth of water, which we found fordable. After crossing the creek, being in want of provisions, and having previously agreed to have some sent to Mr. Mackintoshes at New Haven falls, we concluded to go there that afternoon. We had found a marked line, which we concluded that Mr. Smalley &c, (who were making some settlements in Middlebury) had marked to Newhaven falls, as some traveling appeared to be by it. We left our blankets &c, and set out in jackets without sleeves, and made the best of our way to Newhaven river. When we came there, darkness began to appear. We found ourselves

deceived both in the time of day and distance. We therefore found it advisable to make a fire and stay where we were. We pealed each a bark to lay under us with some hemlock boughs; having nothing to eat and fatigued both went soon to sleep. In the night we were wakened by heavy rain; I said I scarcely ever knew it rain harder. One side was wet to our skins instantly. The only shift we could make in the dark, (for our fire disappeared) was to turn the barks we lay on over us, and lie in the leaves. In this situation, we went again to sleep; & were next disturbed by finding that we were in a little hollow, which the severity of the rain had raised the water, so as to completely wet us, and necessitate us to move or drown. It was a cold rain for perhaps the 20th of May. We searched for fire, but not a spark remained, and we were extremely chilled by the water &c. In a thicket of hemlocks so dark, we could not see one another, and having very little wood, we concluded, we could make no considerable advantage (it being near day) by attempting to make fire. In this situation, we impatiently waited day light for I suppose about two hours, before it was light enough to follow a line of marked trees. The little river was so swollen by the rain that it was with difficulty we could ford it, carrying each a large stone on our shoulders to steady us. We then made the best of our way to Mr. M'Intoshes, about ten miles, and felt much the better after eating a hearty meal. The next day we took some provisions in our packs, and returned to Middlebury falls, and proceeded to mark a road to Onion river. This road was soon after cut out so as to make a bridle road, through which the late Governor Chittenden came in the course of the summer, and contracted with said company, for the lands his heirs now own. My brother Heman and others visited Onion river by the way of that road in 1773.

Thus in a short time, I led a people through a wilderness of 70 miles; about the same distance that took Moses 40 years to conduct the children of Israel.

On my arrival at Onion river, Baker had come on by water with stores workmen &c. We then made our arrangements for business; I took on myself the principal conducting surveys, exploring the country for purchase, &c, while Baker saw to our stores, building, farming, and when he could some times, surveyed, and was a worth active partner.

In the cource of this Summer, to prevent settlements under N. York, Col. Ethan Allen with near one hundred Green Mountain Boys came to New Haven falls, and erected a block fort, disconcerting a party of Scotchmen brought out from Scotland by the influence of Col. Reed to settle there.

For personal safety, &c, Capt. Baker and I thought proper to erect a block fort near the falls of Onion river, twenty by thirty two feet, every stick of timber was at least eight inches thick. In the second story, were 32 port holes for small arms. The roof was so constructed, in case of fire, we could throw it off — the second story jutted four inches over the other, so that we could fire down, or throw water to put out fire; and the fort was built over a boiling spring for certainty of water. We made double doors, blocks for the windows, and every part proof against small arms. We never walked out without at least a case of pistols. In this situation, we were a terror to the New York claimants &c.

The country being fertile, Col. Thos. Chittenden's and Mr. Jona. Shafford's purchasing and determining to move, with other influences, induced men of

property and business to commence settlement there; which overturned the objects of the New York claimants, who had contemplated getting into possession of the country contiguous to lake Champlain, (the most fertile part of the Grants,) and subjecting the people on the East side of the Great Mountains, which they had effected with their claims or Berkshire County, by surrounding the Green Mountain Boys, so as to subject them to the colony of New York. But these measures disconcerted them. This may be considered as a necessary deviation from the subject began upon.

In the course of this Summer, several Matters happened, worthy of notice. (It was truly a time of enterprise.) I shall notice some.

Early in this year I took a particular view of Burlington Bay, and the lands adjacent; and considering its situation in different respects of consequence, I accordingly took a survey on the beech, and if I mistake not, found it to be from the North end of the beech, to the South, three miles and fourteen rods. This I did in a hot day for curiosity. Further remarks will be made of this place hereafter, from particular considerations.

About the Month of July, from the particular attention paid, by the Green Mountain Boys respecting N. York Surveyors, &c, information was sent to Capt. Baker, that a surveyor was surveying lands under New York claims, at or near Waterbury, on Onion river. Baker and I held a consultation. In this case, we determined that no York surveyor should survey on Onion river with impunity. It was determined that I should pursue him. I took with me three men, viz, Isaac Vanornam, George Patterson, and William Stewart, who were supposed to be the best travelers of any in our party. We took

provisions and spirits in our packs and set out in search of the surveyor, who, we were informed was Mr. Gale. When we reached Waterbury, we looked out for his new lines, without discovering any. We went into Middlesex and Berlin, without effect, and then turned Northeast. In a level, thick and small timbered piece of ground, to the West of Stephens branch of Onion river, the dog we had barked earnestly. The men with me declared that there was something of consequence, and ran hastily on. For my own part, I kept a look out for lines and did not hurry; but soon heard the guns fired. At this, I took a quicker step and soon found a large Moose prostrated. Then I learned that the Moose made but a slow way ahead, by reason of very thick Saddles, in consequence of his horns, and the dexterity of the dog, which enabled the men soon to come up with him. We shunned him, hung up the skin and had a feast on Marrow bones &c, spending the remainder of the day and night there. We had with us a wooden gallon bottle, full of good spirits, when we set out, and we took turns in carrying it. The bottle fell to my lot. This morning over the Moose meat &c, it was easily emptied; when I took it and placed it ten rods distant, the head towards us, took my gun and put a ball through it. The men followed the example, and every one put a ball through the bottle. We then set out in search of Mr. Gale, traversing the country different ways for lines without effect. We went into Montpelier, to the top of a high ridge, (I have named towns from the knowledge I have obtained of the country since, the rivers &c passed, for it was then all new to me.) I there clomb a tree to view the adjacent lands, to guess where a North surveyor would most likely lay out lands. I then went down and a question arose what meas-

21

[illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]
[illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]
[illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]
to do, for we were no short allowance; to return to
the field of Battle again, or the other way pursue and
go to Crown Point, which in fact was my intention,
desisting from the discoveries I had made
of the country and [illegible] we had traveled through
there was a Spark surveyor in the wilderness near
Shrewsbury's lines in a direction to the
Land gate [illegible] a gate erected for a half shire Town
Gore Castor, twelve miles from any inhabitants
New Washington as granted by Vermont, or we
should gain information of him amongst the inhab-
itants before, or at Connecticut river. Besides
I wished to explore the country through to Connecticut
river, that I might form a better judgement of the
consequence of the country contiguous to Lake Champlain.
With these views I proposed to my men to go into Crown Point
for provisions &c. and that we would take a direction to
come to Steepers old Cohors Marked road (by which
some travel had been from Connecticut river to Onion
river) at or near the foot of Kingsland Hill, which
I had been informed was about three miles in ascent.
Concluding that my men would not look with attention
for lines, as we were going short of provisions, I there-
fore determined on the course to go with the advice of
the men, and gave the compass to I. Vanorman, for
him to lead the way that I might pay the more attention
to lines. In the morning, we set out from about two
miles South of the main branch of Onion river, on
Montpelier, and Vanorman led the way very fast.
About eleven o'clock, after all the men thought, and
I discovered a new line that had been run that spring
from appearance two months before. This was the cause
that the men thought it not worth attention. Between

eling at a little distance, I discovered horse's tracks. From the growth of the weeds that had been broken down, &c., some tracks were older than others, and the last about 14 days before. This induced a belief that it was a line that pack horses carried provisions to Mr. Gale by. We followed it some distance to a river without further discovery. A council was there held whether to pursue that line and risk our chance to find the York Surveyor, and get provisions from him. I was for pursuing the line at least till night, although in the wilderness without provisions, but the men declined further pursuit. Had we crossed the river and gone half a mile, we should have found one of Gales camps and a letter directing where he was, and we might have found him that night. (This I was afterwards informed.) We again took our course, and found Sleepers old road, and soon the foot of Kingsland Hill. We followed the road up the hill. Vanornam quickened his step up the hill, challenging all to keep up with him. In about one mile G. Patterson fell behind — in about one mile more Wm. Stewart proposed making a stop; but Vanornam declared, as he had before, that the man that did not keep up, should be considered tired, and he was determined to know who was able to gain Kingsland Gaol first. Stewart notwithstanding fell back, but Vanornam and I made no stop till we came in sight of the old Gaol. We then walked slow. It was a question which of us would have failed first. Vanornam then gave his reasons for walking so fast the whole day. (Considerable of the way was heavy traveling in consequence of the juniper bushes that were thick, white maples &c.) When I picked the men to go with me Patterson and Stewart boasted of tiring me &c., when Vanornam assured them that they would find more than their match to tire me. They gave boasting words, which induced Vanornam to put the matter to the test as aforesaid.

We made a fire; found some small potatoes which we pulled and roasted. In the mean time, Patterson and Stewart came up. Tanornam then passed some hard jokes on those who fell behind.

That evening Messrs. Baldwin, Wilson, Rankins, &c, came to the old gaol to lodge on their way to Onion river to purchase lands of Baker and Allen. We proclaimed ourselves to be hunters from Otter creek going to view the country up Connecticut river &c. In the course of the evening, the characters of Baker, Allen and the Green Mountain Boys came in question. I carried on the farce so as not to be mistrusted, making many questions respecting lands contiguous to Connecticut river. But from the account they gave of Onion river we concluded not to purchase on Connecticut R, till we had viewed Onion River; sending word to Baker and Allen to reserve lands of a certain description for me. When Baker received the message, he laughed heartily, informing them who we were &c. From these men we learned nothing respecting Mr. Gale. Next morning we set out for Corinth. Just as we had finished a late breakfast at Mr. Colbey's, two packhorses came up, apparently loaded with provisions. From the appearance, and understanding they expected to go to the old gaol that night, I believed the stores were going to Gale. Thomas Butterfield, who had charge of said stores, was jealous from the appearance of our arms &c, that we were Green Mountain Boys in pursuit of Mr. Gale, which I discovered from the questions he asked. In this situation I paid my bill without loss of time, and set out for Connecticut river. As soon as we were a proper distance in the woods, we held a council. I proposed returning and going round Colbey's & come to the road and see Butterfield pass, and pursue

him to Kingsland and make a prisoner of him with his partner. The men with me decleined, thinking that to have two prisoners, and then undertake to take a surveying party of 6 or 7 men was too much. I urged hard the enterprise, as we could get supplies of provisions, cause the men to be pilots, and take the other party on surprise, and having each of us a gun and case of pistols, we had nothing to fear. The facts were Vanornam had a Sister living on Connecticut river, that he had not seen in 15 years, and that he wished to see and induce her and family to move to Onion river. The other two were really cowardly fellows (as the American war afterwards evinced.) I was therefore necessitated to go to Connecticut river, to Mr. Hutchinson's in Haverhill, for provisions, and to gain information; which I effected in a few days and set out again in pursuit of Gale. By the information I had gained, I found I should have to go back to the line I discovered as aforesaid. From Kingsland, the aforesaid horse tracks were our guide, as they were carrying stores to Mr. Gale. On crossing the river where we before left said line, in half a mile, we found one of Gale's Camps. We proceeded with vigor, till we came to the end of a line and a corner was made apparently that day; for we saw fire where they slept the night before, the water was riley in their tracks, and the weeds broken down not wilted, in a swale some distance before we came to the corner. But the corner was made on dry ground, and no line went from it; nor tracks could be traced. Here ended our expedition. The facts were, as I afterwards learned of Butterfield, he was jealous of us & expected to have been taken after he left Colbeys, and had hastened to inform Gale, who took the alarm, and with great expedition ran a line to form the corner of a pattern,

ordered his men carefully to depart from the corner, to leave no traces of them, quit his surveys, and return to Connecticut river. By his watch, he left said corner at twelve o'clock; and by my watch, I came to it at one o'clock the same day. Thus after missing two opportunities to take Gale, I missed him the third time by one hour. This expedition had nearly the same effect in terrifying N. York surveyors, as though Gale had really been taken, for they found by this unremitted perseverence that there was no safety for them in any part of the district of the New Hampshire Grants, however far in the wilderness.

From said corner, we returned on our way home, crossed the North branch of Onion river at the fordway, just by where Col. Jacob Davis has since built, and went down the river to the falls aforesaid, where we arrived on the evening of the sixteenth day. This and Warner's expedition in the Summer of 1772, in pursuing Mr. Cockburn, and taking him on Bolton Mountains were the most persevering pursuits after New York surveyors ever made in the days of the Green Mountain Boys, and shows the persevering spirit that influenced the defenders of the rights of the people of the district of the New Hampshire Grants, at that early day. The unremitted exertions of the Green Mountain Boys laid the foundation for the independence of Vermont, and had a powerful influence in bringing forward and perfecting the independence of the United States, &c.

## 1773.

In the course of this Summer, Capt. Baker and I agreed to take a view of lake Champlain, its islands, and the lands contiguous to the lake shore, to the South line of the province of Quebec, the 45° of North Latitude, which line we had been informed had been run, Mon-

uments erected by the lake shore, and the timber cut out of the way one rod wide on the line, by order of the governors of the colony of New York and province of Quebec. We therefore supposed we could find said line by the lake shore and on the land. We agreed to take different courses, to gain more general information; Baker to go by land, taking Isaac Vanornam with him, while I was to take a canoe with one man, and go by water and meet at a time appointed at the province line. We parted for that purpose, having very little information of the country, except that the province line was run as aforesaid. I had no knowledge of the Multiplicity & situation of islands from the mouth of Onion river to the province line. I had only been informed that there were some valuable islands. I had very little knowledge of watercraf, and the man with me had never been on water in any watercraft in the course of his life, whom I found to be very timid. Turning round Colchester point, I took a course, crossing the sand bar, making a small stop on the next small island, climbed a tree, &c., to look out &c. Contrary winds delayed us. We got under the east shore of long Island, and kept under it till consequence of a Northwesterly wind; till we came round the point of it. The wind was then so strong to the North, that we could make little headway against it. I discovered Tamers improvement on the place now called Duchman's Point. Being some at a loss whether I had not crossed the province line, the wind being against us, and to gain information, I hoisted a sale and boredown up said point. On arriving I found Tamer nor his wife could not speak or understand one word of English. We passed the evening getting refreshments &c. In the

morning, I with my pen made a sketch of the islands, lake shores, &c, then making signs by my pen to draw a long line across the whole, Tamer guessed my meaning, and showed me where to draw the line. By this I found we had not gone far enough North. The wind being in the West I got under the East shore of what is now Albany and continued on till I found the line. I then set my compass for an East Course to cross Missiquoi bay, and found a tall pine on the top of a ridge in my line, which was my land mark to steer to, that I might come directly to the Monument on the other side of Missiquoi bay. Having had a little experience in managing a canoe, and having a large sail, and there appearing to be considerable wind out from shore, from West to East, so that I should go directly before it, I resolved to have a pleasant sail in my small canoe. I put in four large stones for ballast, put up my full sail, which was large enough for a canoe of double its size, belayed the halyard well, gave the sheet ropes to the man that was with me, instructing him to tend the sail according to my orders. I then pushed out from shore, taking the steerage to myself. I soon got under a brisk gale. The aforesaid tree I could see over the top of my sale, and we were much delighted in passing with such rapidity through the water, till getting farther out from shore, I found the wind much higher than we expected. In addition to this a severe gale came on. As we passed, the waves, the tops of which were foaming and white, were higher than our canoe on both sides. The man with me was exceedingly frightened, and became almost as white

as the top of the waves, and I certainly heartily wished myself on land; and the only way for it was to keep our canoe, sails, &c. steady and go forward, for it was impossible to turn about. When we got within about three quarters of a mile of shore, I stooped low and looked under the sales to see what the landing was. To my great surprise a white perpendicular rock appeared 40 feet in height, against which the water broke with great violence. Having the presence of mind carefully to view the breakers along shore, I observed a place a little to the North, where the surf appeared less confused. To keep up the courage, as much as possible of the man with me, I told him there was good landing, best a little North, and ordered a trifling alteration in the sails, managing the steerage with my paddle, to gain to the North by degrees; for the wind and waves were so high, we could make but trifling alteration in our course, without filling with water. By managing with the best economy possible, I gained near the middle of a sand beech, perhaps eight rods wide, where we went under full sail on shore. The next wave broke over my head, and filled the canoe with water &c. We gathered our provisions, clothes &c, floating, and thought ourselves well off to be on land.

I then went in search of Baker, and soon found the province line, but no signs of Baker. I hallowed, &c, all in vain, loped bushes, &c, to my canoe, and spent the evening in drying our clothes, provisions &c. Next day I went out about three miles on the province line to view the country &c. The third day I waited the arrival of Baker. The wind till that afternoon had

2 continued very high. Then lulling, I went out in the canoe to catch fish. After getting a supply of fish, going back to the little beech, I observed something white on a cedar tree under the ledge of rocks, that induced me to suppose it might be a letter from Baker to me. I landed at the beech and went under the high rocks to the tree and found a letter from Baker to me, dated the day before I arrived, in which I was informed that he should return near the lake shore, on the points, making signals &c for me. I returned to my fire completely wet by the waters breaking its swells &c against the rocks. It being just night, the wind unfavorable, we dressed our fish, roasted them with some raw pork, and with bread injured by water, &c., made a delicious supper; for the woods, &c, gave us appetites equal to the occasion. Indeed in such circumstances coarse fare is better relished than the greatest luxuries in ease and plenty. In the morning the wind had ceased. In the calm, we set out for Onion river, keeping a lookout for Baker. We passed his signals on Hog Island Point, St Albans Bay, and on the shore near the South line of Georgia. Next morning about two miles up Onion river, I met a party of Seven men in a small batteau, sent out by Baker in search for me; as he was apprehensive, as the wind had been so changable and high, that I might be cast away and suffering on some island. We went into the batteau putting the canoe in tow, and found Baker had furnished a plenty of Spirits, &c, and we took good refreshment. I then took the helm, and eight oars manfully applied, soon brought us to the falls and released Baker's anxiety. When we recapitulated our discoveries, we found that a pleasant fertile country had appeared to our view. Baker, going by land, discovered the quality of the soil; and my going by

water, out on the lake, climbing trees on islands, &c. evinced that a level beautiful country extended a large distance from the lake. This excursion, and that the fall before to Mansfield, the view of the country from the tops of trees on Mansfield Mountain, and my pursuits after Mr. Gale to Connecticut river, &c., had furnished us with a general knowledge of the country.

Then ambition, vigor of youth, with a firm constitution, united to acquire a character and fortune; but I had many difficulties to surmount. I had very little learning — What property I had acquired was principally in lands in Poultney, Castleton, & Hubbardton, which I had left in the agency of my Brother Zemry Allen, to sell to the best advantage. After these discoveries, I wrote to him pressingly to sell the whole, or any part that would command ready pay, or that could be realized early the next winter, to apply to the purchase of lands contiguous to Onion river, and lake Champlain; for that was the country my soul delighted in, and where, at all events, I was determined to make settlement. Zemry was an enterprising young man, very attentive and active in business, but of slender constitution, and could not therefore accompany me to the woods, but could ride about and attend to business. But the disputes with New York, the great quantities of land for sale, the towns aforesaid, especially Hubbardton, not being of the best, put it out of his power in the course of this year to make any sales of consequence.

When the partnership of the Onion river Co. was agreed on in the preceeding winter, my brother Heman engaged me to look out for him the best place for trade, at or near lake Champlain. He then contemplated Skeensborough, &c. in his

opinion, from the knowledge of the country he had acquired, to be the place; but wished me to have a view to this object when exploring the country; which I faithfully attended to, and gave Burlington Bay the preference of any part of the country, from the discoveries I had made in the preceeding expeditions. Skeenesborough, I considered as an unhealthy place, therefore illy apted to Hemans weakly constetution. Besides, although the head of navigation in the lake, it was too near the river Hudson to be of consequence. From different considerations, Burlington would, from its situation, become a place of consequence; and that the fertile intervals, &c. adjacent, being in large proportions owned by the Allen family, might induce them to move to that part of the country, and by their influence and friends, make it of consequence in their day, both for commerce and society in the neighborhood. With these views, I went and pitched a number of hundred acre lots contiguous to Burlington Bay. The land, in itself, was the greater part poor looking pine plain. This more of mine astonished my friends, who had observed me to be very enterprising in pitching good lands, and that much good lands remained untouched in Burlington. I gave no reasons for my conduct, which raised many questions and disputes. Indeed I did not but in part explain myself to my worthy friend and partner Baker, for I found he had little opinion of that place; but looked for good lands more than situations, observing; that good lands would certainly be of consequence, but it was hard to determine where places of consequence would arise in a country so extensive and new; that after surveying the best of the lands by pitches, we might in consequence of this knowledge be able to judge of situations and pitch or purchase any lands we might think of consequence. These remarks were of much good sense, but Baker

had not explored the country so much as I had. I had settled my opinion, from which I was determined not to depart, nor give any further reasons. / Frequent satires passed on me respecting Burlington pine plain. One rainy day, Stephen Lawrence, Joshua Staunton and others had been fishing at the falls the rain prooving too hard, they came into the fort, where Baker kept Spirits &c for sale, and over a bole of punch began severely to bully rag me for pitching Burlington pitch pine plains. (By nick name I was called Stub.) They carried the joke so far as to call Stub a fool for pitching such lands, that he could not give any good reasons for it. Stub as cheerfully answered to that name as to any other; resolving to take them a little in, and give no satisfactory reasons neither, observed that he was surprised that they could not see use for such lands, considering its situation &c. & that for a double bole of punch, he would give his reasons. / This they agreed to give; but Stub would have the punch in & take a good drink before he began to give his reasons. / This was done with so much apparent candour, that the company complied and the punch was brought in, and Stubs took the first drink and passed it round. All attention was then paid for Stub to give his reasons for pitching Burlington pine plain; when Stub, putting on a serious countenance began, That the life of man was by sacred writ estimated at three score years & ten, that although some survived that period of life, yet many fell short & and none could tell the time of their dissolution; that dry pine plain was easy digging, and good carrying ground, and if as suggested by some, the Spirits of the deceased conversed with each other, and viewed the conduct of posterity, it would be convenient passing from tomb to tomb through

Written June 20th, 1811 by J. Staunton
I will remember this, & ever be ready

that light dry earth, and to see from the high sand bank the busy multitude carrying on Commerce in Burlington bay. This serious satire, and having first got a double bowl of punch induced Stubs neighbors to say very little more to him about Burlington pine plains for considerable time.

The latter part of this Summer Heman Allen, with others from Salisbury, came to visit Onion river. I was in the wilderness surveying, when an express was sent to me informing of my brother's arrival and desire for me to come on, which I quickly complied with. In the mean time a Capt. Fry made a bargain with and bought of Baker and Heman, lot No. 1 at Burlington bay, 100 acres, for £15. which took the most advantageous part of the bay. The contract was compleated, and Fry gone before I got out of the woods. Soon after I came in, Baker and Heman informed me, boasting of a good bargain they had made of one hundred acres of my pine plain; that they had sold it for as much as good interval &c. I informed that I had proposed that place for my brother, as being advantageous for Commerce &c, that they were extremely wrong in selling that place; and I found so much fault, that at length considerable warmth arose on all sides, when I closed the dispute by declaring that I would repurchase that lot, the next Winter at all events; which I carefully attended to, by a journey of 150 miles, and giveing five pounds more for it, than it was sold for, and got back the conveyance given.

My brother wishing to gain some knowledge of the lake shore and lands adjacent, I took some stores in a canoe, and my brother for two or three days viewing the country. One night we slept in Shelburn bay,

where a small improvement had been made under New York; a little log house, and some straw in a stack. I made a fire in the house, and laid straw on the floor to sleep on. Hearing boats rowing in the bay, I was apprehensive that some N. York party might be in pursuit of me. Attention was paid till we concluded that it was Poteirs people, who had been cutting wild grass for hay at the mouth of the river Laplatt. We then laid down to sleep. I laid next to the door, which was open, and put my pistols in the holsters, as I carried them in the day, under my head in the straw. In the night, in a dream, I imagined the house surrounded by Yorkers to take me; (My brother living in Connecticut &c, he was in no danger if taken) and I thought I saw one man with his gun at the door. There was no window or place to get out, only at that door, & the room dark. I thought the only means of escape was to get my pistols from under my head and out of the holsters so softly as not to be perceived and draw up my feet for a sudden leap out at the door, and to discharge a pistol as I went, to clear my way, and through fire, smoke, and fright of the Yorkers at the door, make my escape to the woods and to fort Frederic, raise a party to rescue my brother, if they should presume to detain him: & to take the York party. Thus having concerted my visionary plan, I proceeded with great caution to put it into execution. I got my pistols from under my head and out of the holsters — got carefully upon my knees and elbows. By some means, this wakened my brother, as I was between him and the light of the door, he perceived my situation, and heard the pistol in my right hand cock, (for I had one in each hand) He was alarmed, seized hold of me and I awoke. Thus ended my visionary battle. Had I been awake,

and really attacked, I could not have concerted a better plan of escape. This alarmed my brother so much that he slept no more that night.

In the course of this Summer, I laid out work for other surveyors by running some of the out sides of bodies of lots, and then drawing plans for them to proceed by. In one of these expeditions in Essex, in concerting the allotment of lands contiguous to Essex little river & North thereof, I found a difficulty in my compass, that I could not account for. The facts were that once in six or eight setting, the needle would suddenly settle or rather stop with a little trembling from the true line to 30° as chance might happen. By giving the compass a little thump, the needle would move and settle right. I repeatedly took off the glass, &c; inspecting every part of the compass, to find the cause; but all my searches &c for three days were in vain. By this time I got intolerably vexed, and when I went at night to a little camp, we had made for stores &c, I gave my men double rations of spirits. I informed the men that I would go no more in the woods with that compass, till I could learn the cause of its irregularity. I gave them all leave to go a fishing next day, but Isaac Vanornam, and him I requested to go to a certain brier hill and kill a two year old Moose I had seen there, about a week before, and having no gun with me, I moved so slow out of his sight, although looking at me, in 18 rods, that I did not disturb from his favorite brier hill. Having this arranged business for the next day, we went to rest. In the morning my men got up early, and went on the business aforesaid. I did not hurry myself, but after the sun was up a good height,

I got up and began to inspect my compass, when the mystery soon appeared. The three preceeding days were all dark, cloudy days, but this morning was pleasant and fair. Just before I left Fort Frederic, I had washed the glass to my compass, & wiped it with a woollen cloth, a single hair of wool stuck to the glass—one end down like a hook, so that when the needle traversed close to the glass, it caught. A small jar would shake it off; and this was so small and of such a color as not to be perceived in a dark day. Here ended the mystery. The fishermen returned loaded with fish, and Tanorman with the moose skin aforesaid. Thus all were successful that day. The moose was as good as a two year old beef, and was carried to the falls for use.

Late in the fall, Baker & I contracted for seventy bushels of wheat of Messrs. Parsons and Logan of Shelburn. I went with a party of men in a batteau, to receive the wheat, pay the money, and send it to Carr's Mill N. W. of Crown Point. Having got the wheat on board & a favorable light gale of wind blowing, I concluded to sail to the mouth of Otter Creek, then leave the boat and take a view of the land between Otter Creek and Onion river. On my return, at about ten o'clock at night, with a light breeze, full moon, and clear night, I came near the mouth of said Creek. I directed one of the men to tie up my blanket, with a piece of bread and raw pork, and set it by me, that as I had the helm, I would bring the boat so near a flat rock and bold shore, that I could leap upon it, & not stop the way of the boat, as I was doubtful that a south wind would soon arise. This I effected, and the boat just gained the mill before the wind

5 changed. I took my leave of the party, slung my pack and took my hatchet in my hand, and went into the woods by moon light. About half a mile before, I saw a place that suited me to camp, where I found a dry tree had fallen and broken up, and made a plenty of wood. I made a fire, kicked the snow off of a place to sleep, cut hemlock boughs for a camp and bed, and slept very quiet. Before day, I awakened & concluded to take breakfast and be ready to walk, as soon as it was light. Through mistake, a piece of raw beef, very fat was in place of raw pork. However, I proceeded to eat it raw, without salt, with bread. This I must confess was a tough breakfast. At day light, I began my march. Near day, a wet light snow fell, which loaded the brush & exceedingly heavy, so that it was very bad traveling, and gave a poor opportunity to view the country. The snow on all was about six inches deep. Under these circumstances, I set out in the gray of the morning, taking a N.E. course to a wind fall, where scarcely a tree was standing, and the brush about twelve feet high. The glade coming directly in my way, determined me to go through it, notwithstanding it was almost impossible to get along in it for the logs, brush and snow. After traveling a short time in this thicket, I came again to standing timber, I went a little distance to gain high ground for the better traveling, and took my course again without even looking at my compass, and in a few rods, I discovered a marked line. From its appearance, I concluded it to be the allotment of Ferrisburg; if so it would be E. & W. I looked at my compass and found I was right. I soon came to a man's track, as new as my own, steering my course. It not being then sunrise, I was con-

17c fident that the man could not be far ahead. I looked and hallowed for him, but turning and looking back on the track, I discovered my own camp &c. I could not help laughing at the joke all alone. This was the first and only time I ever got completely lost in those woods; and this was of short duration; for without the help of the compass I had got my course perfectly right, soon after I was out of the wind fall. I then proceeded through the wind fall, contenueing Northeast, nearly to the line of Henesburg, & then Northwest and got to Mr. Parsons, in the evening, after a very smart walk, when refreshment and rest were very comfortable. Next day, I took a circuitous rout Easterly into Shelburn, through the middle of Burlington, to the falls of Onion river.

By such exertions as the preceding I gained the knowledge of the quality of lands in the towns contiguous to Onion river, and lake Champlain, to purchase in the best terms, lay roads, &c, and introduce settlement